BAGEDAD (AP) — The catire Iraqi leadership met Wednesday to discuss Trackey's decision to cut the flow of water in the Emphrates River for a month, state-run radio reported. Bughdad Radio and President Saddam Hussein chaired a meeting of the Revelutionary Command Council and the regional command of the Banth Party to discuss "technical and political the regional command of the Basth Party to discuss "technical and political aspects of Turkey's decision to cut the Emphratzs water." The radio did not give further details, but said all necessary measures will be taken to encounter problems. Ankers decided to block the water starting from Jan. 13 to fill its newly built Ataturk Dem on the Emphrates in southeast Turkey. Turkish officials announced the cut months ago and increased the flow of the river ahead of time, saying both Iraq and Syria should be able to cope with the extreme shortfull in the water of the river by storing extra water shead of three. But Iraq had announced that the cut, not expected to dry up the river because to downstream tributaries, will drastically affect

Volume 15 Number 4287

AMMAN THURSDAY-PRIDAY, JANUARY 11-12, 1990, JUMADA AL THANI 14-15, 1410

🕬 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

PLO official says Baker plan flopped

King holds talks with Kaddoumi

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received the head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) foreign affairs, Farouq Kaddoumi, the Jordan News Agency, Petra,

Petra did not give details except that Kaddoumi was accompanied by several PLO officials. Deputy Prime Minister and Fore-

ign Minister Marwan Al Queen attended the meeting, it added. It was believed that Kaddoums briefed the King on the latest developments in the Palestinian scene and efforts to advance the

Earlier, in an arrival statement, Kaddonmi said that an initiative for Palestinian-Israeli dialogue by U.S. Secretary of State James

Baker flopped: "We consider the Baker plan a failure since it does not respond to our demands," said Kad-

"The PLO has continuously affirmed that we are for peace and we have submitted our own peace proposal, but the U.S. and Israel have stood against this proposal," Kaddouni told Petra. "We know that the United

States' policy has always been in favour of farmel and we are constantly on guard regarding these policies... the United States' moves are not in the right direc-

tion," he said. In Cairo, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat met Egyptian Prosident Hossi Mubarak on the

No details emerged and Arafat avoided reporters after the one-

Palestinian sources said Arafat and Mithurak, joined by their top policy makers, discussed peace moves and implications of Egypt's newly restored ties with

Kaddoumi said: "My visit to Jordan is of great importance due

King meets U.S. senator

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein met at the Royal Court Wednesday with U.S. Congressman James Tower. The King and Tower discussed the latest developments in the Middle East,

and reviewed efforts towards settling the Arab-Israeli conflict.

the Arab region ... especially because steadfast Jordan has the longest confrontation line with the Israeli enemy.

Kaddonmi said Baker "did not come up with anything new and his plan is based on procedural

The five-point Baker proposal calls for a meeting of U.S., Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers to plan talks between Palestinians and Israelis, which in turn would lead to the election of Palestinian representatives in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli officials are demanding U.S. guarantees that the PLO will have nothing to do with any

The PLO has to choose and announce its delegation to the meeting (with Israelis) and it is not the right of anybody to object to that," Kaddoumi said.

Kaddoumi also said Palestinian-Israeli talks should be "open and not only aimed at holding elections" in the occupied terri-

He said the talks should be lannched under international supervision and "the meeting itself should be a preliminary step towards holding an international peace conference on the Middle

Israel fails to respond to Baker bid for dialogue

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel effort to revitalise the process, to the elections," he said on failed Wednesday to respond to had asked U.S. Jewish leaders Israel Radio. an American bid to conve Israeli-Palestinian talks but said Middle East peace efforts were still alive.

There are some problems to be solved but we believe the process is very much alive," foreign ministry spokesman Motti Amichai told reporters.

Israel's 12-man inner cabinet met but offered no response to the latest American bid to advance an Israeli proposal for Palestinian elections in the occu-pied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

hrise

10

Israel Radio said the policymaking inner cabinet would act only after Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin returned next week from a trip to Washington. On Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was reported

frustrated with delays in convening Israeli-Palestinian talks on an Israeli election proposal promp-ted by the 25-month-old uprising in the occupied territories. A participant at Baker's meet-

ing with Norway's Foreign Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik told reporters the secretary of state might soon decide to devote his time to other world matters where there was some hope of

getting things done."
The State Department said a preparatory meeting this month of Israeli, Egyptian and American foreign minsiters was in doubt for lack of progress. Israel Radio said Baker, in an

and several members of Course to pressure Prime Minister Yif-

zhak Shamir to be more flexible. Israel has demanded iron-clad assurances from the United States that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would have no direct or indirect role in proposed talks to be held in

The inner cabinet reportedly discussed cabinet secretary Eliakim Rubinstein's December meeting with Baker on U.S. assurances. But communications Minister Gad Yacobi told a reporter no decision was reached at

the meeting Wednesday. Health Minister Yaacov Tzur, who like Yacobi is of the centreleft Labour Party, said he is confident that Baker had not yet given up on the Israeli initiative. "I don't think it's all over," be said. "I think he is only trying to

prod everyone to push the process forward." A foreign ministry official told reporters the process is "going to be very long and painful." Arens said if Baker ends his

personal involvement in Middle East peace efforts, Israel will look for other ways to implement

its election plan.
"If it should turn out that we cannot, through Mr. Baker's five points, arrive at this dialogue that will deal with the procedures for holding elections then we will find another route to ... move on

Israeli Radio reported that Baker told Norway's Bondevik in a Monday meeting that he was prepared to "throw up his hands" the Middle East and concentrate his efforts on areas of the world where be can more easily

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Baker called Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Megoid to discuss a planned meeting between Abdul Meguid, Baker and Arens in Washington.

"As long as there is hope, there is reason to be engaged," Tutwiler said. But she added: "He's also a realist. If the parties are serious be will continue to work with

The tripartite meeting was scheduled to be held this month, but was postponed until February due to unresolved differences over the PLO role and the agenda for the proposed Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo.

"It is abourd to have a meeting if the meeting resolves nothing, Tutwiler said.

The meeting of the three foreign ministers was the cornerstone of Baker's five-point plan.

It was designed to reach agreement on the composition of a Palestinian delegation that would meet with Israeli officials in Cairo to discuss Israel's elections prop-



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday confers with Palestinian official Farouq Khaddoumi (Petra

Moscow to upgrade ties with PLO, Israel

ign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told a visiting Israeli ministor Wednesday the Kremlin planned to apgrade relations with Israel and at the same time announced the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would have a full embassy in Moscow.

The Soviet move came amid signs U.S. diplomatic efforts to arrange a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue had stalled and was accompanied by a renewed call for an international peace conference.

Tel Aviv, the first Soviet plane to bring Jewish immigrants on a direct flight from Moscow.

Israel expects up to 50,000 Soviet Jews to arrive this year and attaches great importance to a recent agreement on direct flights with the Soviet Union that would help channel the exodus to Israel instead of the United States.

The Soviet plane took back 52 Soviet teenagers from Chernobyl area who had been exposed to radiation during the 1986 accident at the nuclear plant there. The children spent three weeks in Israel on a holiday and were

checked by Israeli doctors. Israeli Science Minister Ezer Weizman said on Israel Radio after a two-hour meeting in Moscow with Shevardnadze that the Soviet Union plans to upgrade

relations with Israel. At the same time, the Soviet news agency TASS announced the Soviets were upgrading the status of the PLO mission in Moscow to "an embassy of the government of Palestine."

"The Soviet side expressed its readiness to conduct talks on regularising the status of the consular groups of both countries," TASS said, referring to Israel and the State of Palestine.

The move stops short of renewing full diplomatic ties with Israel, which were severed by the Soviet Union over the 1967 war. Weizman, speaking from Mos-cow, said on the radio that She-vardnadze told him the Israeli

and Soviet diplomatic missions

KHARTOUM (Agencies) —

Sudan's military government released former Prime Minis-

ranking just below embassy level. Weizman, the second Israeli minister to visit Moscow after a 23-year rupture in ties, said Shevardnadze viewed Weizman's

However, according to the TASS report, Shevardnadze repeated the Soviet demand for an international peace conference

must be included in the opnfermeanwhile, a Soviet Aeroflot-ence and other stages of the
TU-134 plane landed at BenGuniou international airport near
Tel Aviv the first Soviet Aeroflot iton must be based on "a believe of interests of all its participants, Arabs and Israelis alike," TASS

The Soviets refused to allow Arye Levin, Israel's consular representative in Moscow, to attend the meeting because be lacked the proper diplomatic status,

"I told them this must change and then, in light of this ... we spoke of the change in status,"

Weizman also said Shevardnadze promised to intervene with Syria and Iran to help account for at least six Israeli soldiers missing in action or captured in Lebanon

meeting in Moscow upset the Israeli foreign ministry because Levin was not allowed to attend it, and the ministry had asked Weizman to cancel the talks. Israel Radio said.

centre-left Labour Party, went ahead with the meeting despite the foreign ministry recommendation and a warning from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the right-wing Likud bloc not to engage in any political meetings while in Moscow.

that came close to breaking up the Labour-Likud coalition.

Tehran accepts Soviet mediation

MOSCOW (AP) - Iran has given the go-ahead to resume stymied peace settlement talks with Iraq, and this time they will be mediated and hosted by the Soviet Union, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Volavati sent a message to Moscow saying Iran was willing to resume the talks, which stalled this April in Geneva, Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady I. Gerasimov said.

Iraq had already agreed to the Soviet proposal for trilateral talks, so "now it is possible to start the practical workingout of this question," Gerasimov told a Moscow briefing.

He said he had no details on when and where the talks would be beld. Soviet Foreign Minister

Eduard Shevardnadze, during an official visit to Iran in August, had offered the Soviet Union's help in mediating the deadlocked talks. At the time, Tehran Radio

quoted Shevardnadze as saying the Soviet Union was willing to exploit good rela-tions with both Gulf war foes in an effort to further the talks. The Soviets have leverage

with Baghdad as Iraq's main suppliers in the Gulf war, and Iraq and the Soviet Union are bound by a treaty of friendship and cooperation. Tehran also has signed big

gas deals with Moscow along with other trade agreements reversing years of bad rela-tions with the Soviet Union when it had been grouped with America as a "great satan." No progress was reported at the last round of direct nego-

tiations between Velayati and Iraqi Foreign Ministry Tariq Aziz, held in Geneva in April.

Schools opened in West Bank

Bank Wednesday, two months after schools were closed by the Israeli occupation authorities.

The United Nations-run schools opened for the new school year, which is expected to run until July 8. Military authorities ordered an

early end to the West Bank school year last Nov. 13, two days before Palestinians marked the first anniversary of the declaration of a Palestinian state. In the occupied Gaza Strip, the

army delayed the reopening of schools from Thursday to Monday without giving a reason. They have remained open through most of the revolt.

Palestinian nationalists in the Gaza Strip had killed two fellow Arabs on suspicion of helping Israeli forces, Palestinian and Israeli sources said.

The Israeli military authorities kept West Bank schools closed for seven months last year, saying schools were a source of protests in the 25-month-old Palestinian revolt.

Palestinians said the closure had prevented students from finishing their curriculum. School officials had hoped for only a two-week break before resuming classes in 1990, instead of the two-month gap forced on them. Officials at the U.N. Relief and

(Agencies) — More than 320,000 which helps Palestinian refugees, Palestinian students returned to said students would complete last classes in the occupied West year's curriculum before beginning the new school year.

In the Gaza Strip, the body of Aiman Kammout, 25, from Maghazi refugee camp was found in an abandoned well in nearby Nusseirat eamp Wednesday, Palestinians said. They said be

had been mising for eight days. Residents said the body, which bore stab and axe wounds, was taken to an Israeli hospital for an autopsy.

The army said they were checking the report.

A day earlier, 36-year-old Ghifra Abu Libdeh, from the Gaza Strip town of Rafah, was bospitalised after being stabbed by unidentified Palestinians. She died later Monday, Palestinian and military sources said.

Israeli soldiers in the Gaza Strip demolished a house in Beit Hanoun village on charges an occupant helped in the kidnapping and killing of an Israeli soldier.

The army also notified owners of four West Bank houses sealed up last Sunday that they would be demolished.

Soldiers shot and wounded two children during clashes in Jabalia and Nusseirat refugee camps in the Gaza Strip Wednesday. A 10-year-old girl from Nusseirat, shot in the chest, was reported in

Shi'ite militias battle with renewed fury

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Rival Shi'ite Muslim militias clashed with renewed fury in South Lebanon Wednesday, spurning media-tion efforts by Iran.

God) militias rained artillery shells and rockets on each others' positions for the 19th successive day, sending terrified villagers scurrying for cover.

Both groups, fighting for leadeship of Lebanon's 1.5 milbion Shi ites, denied a statement by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minicter Mohammad Ali Besharati Tuesday that a ceasefire had been agreed.

Security sources said the militias shelled each other's positions in the villages of 'Ain Qana, 'Ain Bouswar, Jarjouh and Arabsalim in the Jolim Al Tufah area, 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

There were no reports of casualties from the six-hour nonstop barrage, the fiercest in five days. At least 76 people have been killed and 280 wounded since fighting empted on Dec. 23. Scores of villagers fled their homes. Many who fled earlier had just returned, thinking the

fighting had eased. Political sources said Besharati, who arrived in Beirut Sunday, met separately Tuesday with leaders of Amal and Hizbollah.

Muslim sources told Reuters the Iranian envoy, in several The pro-Syrian Amal and Ira-ian-backed Hizbollah (Party of Hizbollah to withdraw from five villages seized from Amal in street-to-street battles.

The sources said the fundamentalist Hizbollah asked for guarantees that a peace pact signed last year with the more secular Amal would be implemented. Amal has said Hizbollah must quit the villages before any talks can start.

The peace pact stipulated that Amal would be responsible for security in South Lebanon, but that Hizbollah could conduct political, religious and cultural activities there.

The agreement also allowed Hizbollah to launch guerrilla attacks atainst Israel from the south and called for the reopening of Amal offices in Beirut's southern suburbs, a Hizboutah stronghold. The offices remain

Hizbollah ousted Amal fighters from the western Bekaa Valley last month. More than 900 people have been killed in the almost two-year-old feud.

Ankara, Sofia shift focus to bilateral ties

round of Kuwaiti-sponsored talks on the rights of the ethnic Muslim Turks by shifting emphasis to the pormalisation of relations. sources close to the meeting said Wednesday. Meanwhile Bulgaria said it

with Turkey at the day-long meetings in Kuwait Tuesday, the second since Oct. 30. Turkish Foreign Minister

proposed a non-aggression pact

Mesut Yilmaz, who led his country's delegation to the discussions, left Kuwait while his Bulgarian counterpart Boiko Dimitrov was due to leave later in the day. "Turkey is inclined to consider

the problem of the Turkish Muslim minority in Bulgaria resolved following the adoption of the new leadership in Sofia of a decision restoring rights to the ethnic Turks," said the sources, who spoke on condition they not be

"Turkey considers any more steps in this respect a purely international responsibility of the Bulgarian government," they

The sources said that the Turkish foreign minister had received

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Turkey assurances from his Bulgarian and Bulgaria ended their second counterpart that Sofia "has no intention to yield to pressure by protesters to reverse the deci-

> Yilmaz, told Turkey's semiofficial Anatolian news agency: "The talks had a different atmosphere from all previous dis-

> cussions on the issue and for the first time we have used a common language." The Kuwait meeting was the

> second in a series started before the fall of Bulgaria's hardline Communist leader Todor Zhivkov in December.

> Bulgaria's BTA news agency quoted Dimitrov as saying he had proposed a joint agreement binding both countries to abide by the human rights principles of the United Nations and the Helsinki final act. Yilmaz made no reference to such a proposal.

> Ties between Turkey and its Balkan neighbour were strained last year when 300,000 ethnic Turks crossed the border to escape a campaign of forced assimilation. Reformist leaders who took

power in December have ended the assimilation policy and restored minority rights.

Aoun deposits said to " exceed \$100 million

BEIRUT (Agencies) -- The lef-tist newspaper Al Safir Wednes-day quoted unnamed financial source as saying rebel General Michel Aoun's deposits in Europ-replacing the Lebanese pound to pean and American banks are counter sanctions applied against pean and American banks are estimated at more than \$100 mil-Aoun was entangled in a

mushrooming financial scandal last week over reports he had \$15 million stashed in French banks. The general admitted having this amount but claimed the money was donations made over the last year to help his 20,000 troops. Al Safir said in its front-page story that Aoun's funds came

took hold last September.

. Aoun's press office did not

comment on the report. The general has been advised to use the dollar as legal currency his administration by the government of President Elias Hrawi. the paper reported.

It said Aoun has appropriated all military funds assigned to Lebanese embassies in Paris. London, Washington and Brussels, which were estimated at tens of millions of dollars. The move apparently followed

the sending of a circular to these embassies by Salim Al Hoss. prime minister in Hrawi's from Iraq, which supported the cabinet, to freeze all purchases of general's six month-war against arms and military spare parts. the Syrian army in Lebanon that left 929 people killed before an Arab League brokered cessefire Al Safir said that a \$500,000 monthly subsidy from a "certain

Arab state" to provide food and



Michel Aoun medication for the Lebanese army has been transferred to

Aoun's personal account. The armed forces of Aoun are recruiting women for combat roles, Routers reported. Among units accepting women will be the military police and presidential guard. Women can also join the small air force and navy.

visit as "further proof of more openness" in relations. which Israel opposes. Shevardnadze said the PLO

Weizman said.

by Iranian-backed groups.
The Weizman-Shevardnadze

Weizman, a member of the

Just before Weizman's trip, Shamir ousted the science minister from the 12-member, decision-making inner cabinet as punishment for alleged contacts

with the PLO. The move provoked a crisis

Mahdi moved to house arrest

ter Sadeq Al Mahdi from pris-on Wednesday but kept him under house arrest, the junta's top security official said. Colonel Bakri Hassan Salih, leader of the government's toum, Egypt's Middle East seenrity committee, said another politician, Mahdi's former deputy and Foreign Minister Sidahmad Al Hus-

jail but remained restricted to The official Sudan News Agency (SUNA), which distributed Salih's comments, said Mahdi's release was part of the celebration of Sudan's 34th independence anniversary Jan.

Only one of the party lead-

ers and other senior politicians

imprisoned when a 15-man

junta ousted Mahdi in a blood-

less coup on June 30 remains in

iail. Ibrahim Nugud of the

sein, also was allowed to leave

disbanded Communist Party, with him are an unknown number of junior politicians, exgovernment officials and members of dissolved professional organisations and trade un-In a dispatch from Khar-

News Agency (MENA) re-ported in Cairo that Sudanese Information Minister Ali Shummo Said Mahdi was released because no proof of corruption had been found. "The release of Mahdi comes as part of the government's release of any detainees against whom investigations

show no proof of mistakes that led to corruption under the previous regime," Shummo told the Egyptian agency. The spiritual leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), Mohammad Osman Al Mirghani, released from jail

and put under house arrest last

month after nearly six months

in detention, left for Britain Wednesday for medical treat-ment, SUNA added. The DUP and Mahdi's

Umma Party, outlawed by the

junta with all other political

parties, were partners in four

of the five coalition govern-

ments formed by Mahdi's during his three-year rule. Hassan Al Tourabi, leader of the militant National Islamic Front (NIF) party, was switched from jail to house arrest last month.

emergency, suspended the constitution and dissolved parliament and trade unions. He was repeatedly vowed never to allow a multi-party system back in Sudan, Africa's

largest country and one of its

On seizing power Bashir imposed a nationwide state of

poorest. His coup was Sudan's fourth military takeover since independence in 1956 from Anglo-Egyptian rule,

Israel, UNRWA clash over Palestinian aid

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel and the United Nations clashed Tuesday over the role of a U.N. refugee agency in aiding Palestinians during the oprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Giorgio Giacomelli, commissioner-general of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), said Israeli leaders expressed concern in talks that his organisation was exceeding its mandate by aiding non-refugees and running an undercover observer force.

What I cannot share is the manifest intention of putting a squeeze on us, putting us under tutelage and control as if we were part of the (Israeli) civil administration," he told Reuters.

Israeli sources said Shmuel Goren, the defence ministry's top administrator for the occupied territories, denied trying to res-trict UNRWA but insisted the agency must not exceed its mandate to provide humanitarian services for refugees.

Giacomelli said the U.S. secretary-general and the General Assembly asked UNRWA to extend temporary exceptional assistance to all needy Palestinians during the emergency created by the 26-month-old up-

Similar measures had been taken during the Lebanese civil war. The aid was mainly food rations and medical treatment for casualties of clashes with the

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and Goren had helped clear up "an accumulation of misundestanding, suspicion and concern" over UNRWA's role.

Israeli officials have accused the agency of channelling aid to uprising activists on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The UNRWA chief said he would accept money "even from the devil," but only to fund the agency's publicly approved

humanitarian programme.

He said while Israel and the U.N. agency could not see eyeto-eye on all matters, they shared an interest in limiting the blood-shed, economic and human damage of the uprising.

Some 800, of the 1.75 million Palestinians in the occupied territories are refusee

Giacomelli said UNRWA had to slash its operating budget of \$240 million by six per cent in real terms this year, mainly because of a cut in the contribution of the United States, the biggest donor.

The agency did not yet have any money to cover emergency, relief services in Lebanon and the occupied territories for the second half of 1990, he said.

Citing the need to resettle other refugees, Washington cut its UNRWA contribution from \$67 million two years ago to \$61 million last year and \$50 million

U.S. Secretary of Health Louis Sullivan said Tuesday that standards of medical care were markedly lower in the occupied territories than in Israel.

Sullivan, on a visit to meet Israeli health officials, said the lower quality of Palestinian health care pre-dated the Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank but new problems had arisen during the Palestionian revolt.

"There is common recognition between the Israeli officials and the Palestinian officials that the health status of the Palestiniaus is not as good as that of the Israeli citizens," Sullivan told reporters. Sullivan said Palestinian health officials told him during talks that

their infant mortality rate was higher than the Israeli rate and only a quarter of Palestinians had medical insurance, compared with 96 per cent of Israelis. "As a result of this there are problems with them being able to

afford health care," Sullivan said before boarding a flight to Cairo for talks with Eguptian officials.

The Palestinian uprising had complicated medical care, with budget cuts forced by a lack of tax revenue and the movement of

Sullivan said. But he praised the standards of Israeli medicine, saying Israel had lower infant mortality than

patients obstructed by curfews.

Ben Ali's party gives ground on electoral system, media

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia's roling party, which holds all the seats in parliament, yielded to opposition pressure Tuesday and accepted the principles of reforming the electoral system and giving the opposition a voice in the official

Opposition leaders said they were pleased with the outcome of meeting chaired by Prime Minister Hamed Karoui and attended by Abdul Rahim, Zonari, secretary general of the ruling Democratic Constitutional Union (RCD).

President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali called the meeting of the; so-called National Pact Council last week to deal with opposition complaints that the democratic experiment he launched two years ago had come to a dead

Zouari told Reuters after more than three hours of talks in Karoui's office: "The council has come to the conclusion that one of the priorities is amending the electoral code and has decided to put the suggestion to president

"We are proposing that political pluralism be introduced in the



* Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali media, especially on the radio and television.

favours large parties, and the ruling party's virtual monopoly of the state broadcasting service have been the main targets of opposition complaints.

Three important political groups, the Movement of Democratic Socialists, the Tunisian Communist Party and the country's influential Islamic move-

ment, boycotted the meeting Tuesday.

Bnt two opposition leaders who did attend came out saying they felt further meetings would be worthwhile. "Before the meeting I must

admit I was a little anxious about the outcome but now I am very much encouraged," said Najib Chebbi of the leftist Progressive Socialist Rally. We received the impression

that there will be a favourable response (from Ben Ali) to our demands," added Mohammad Belhaj Amor of the Popular Uni-The council will also ask Ben

Ali to include opposition representatives on a board to review the education system. But the opposition leaders

The electoral code, which failed to win concessions on the press code and the law on parties, which they say give the government too much control over poli-

Under the electoral system, the party which wins the most votes in each of the country's 25 constituencies wins all the seats in that constituency, which may number

Paris confirms diplomatic return to Afghan capital

PARIS (AP) - France will reopen its embassy in Afghanistan, becoming the first Western power to do so since a U.S.-led exodus just before the Soviet army withdrew last year, a spokesman said Wednesday.

CROSSING: Azerbaljani ShPite Musikus at the Araks River. On the Soviet side, riots have

erapted among Azerbaijanis seeking access to

The Foreign Ministry spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the embassy would be headed by a charge d'affaires. He said the diplomat had not yet been named and a date for the reopening was not

The announcement was first made Tuesday in Islamabad by Edwige Avice, France's deputy foreign minister, who said the decision had "no political significance.

Speaking to reporters during an official visit, Mrs. Avice said the action should not be considered support for the existing Kabul government, and noted that Pakistan - a strong supporter of the anti-government rebels --- has kept its Kabul embassy.

The United States, Britain and other countries withdrew their diplomatic pesonnel from Kabul before the February 1989 withdrawal of Soviet forces, citing concern for safety if the capital was overron by anti-government.

In the past year, the Afghan government has shown greater staying power than expected by some Western diplomats. Although Kabul has come under rocket attacks, it has not proved especially dangerous for the diplomatic pesonnel who remained. But Western countries were

reluctant to return to Kabul in a move that could be seen as a concession that the U.S.-backed rebels were not close to victory. The New York Times news-

paper reported Wednesday that the French decision to reopen its

embassy was made despite U.S.

Reports that France was planning to return diplomats to Kabul came to light months ago, and Secretary of State James Baker raised the matter with Foreign Minister Roland Dumas in St. Martin on Dec. 16. the Times

"We explained that we don't recognise this government, that we consider it an illegitimate government and we shouldn't be sending in diplomats because that gives the impression of business as usual," the newspaper quoted an official as saying.

Some Western diplomats who

left Kabul a year ago privately accused Americans of stampeding them into a hasty departure, although they acknowledged that their governments had planned to close embassies sooner or later.

The Kabul government has long accused Washington of deliberate propaganda to portray the Najibullah government as un-Afghan rebels based in Pakis-

tan who are fighting to topple the government in Kabul get most of their funds and weapons from the United States. "They (the rebels) are not happy about it because it is the wrong

signal to send," said a Western diplomat. "For whatever legitimate reasons they (the French) have it is certain to be used by the Soviet Union and the Afghan regime for their own purposes." A Euroepean ambassador dis-

agreed, saying he believed the French move would send precisely the right signal because it would tell the divided rebel leadeship it had be more flexible in seeking a political solution to the civil war.

The Afghan government-in-ex-ile consistently refuses to talk even indirectly to Najibullah and

rejects any idea of sharing power with his People's Democratic Par-

Iranian relatives. At least a dones Azerbai

swam across the river and spent days on the other side before returning.

ty of Afghanistan. Sionce early last year, the only NATO country represented in Kabul has been Turkey and diplomats say they have badly mis-sed first-hand informatin from the Afghan capital.

Of the three other West Euroepean nations to pull out last year. the least likely to follow France's lead is Britain because of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's staunch support of the Afghan

West Germany is also unlikely to break ranks but Italy could be next to decide to reopen, diplomatic sources said. Stampede over visas

For almost two weeks, Afghan war refugees living in camps along Pakistan's rugged frontier heard rumours that hundreds of planes were parked on the tarmac of Islamabad's international airport, waiting to take 60,000 refugees to the United States.

Pinning their bopes on what they had heard, hundreds boarded Pakistan's fleet of rickety old buses and arrived at the gates of the International Catholic Migration Commission. The organisation, under contract to the U.S. State Department, processes refugee applications.
"They thought the airlines

were just waiting to take them away," said Eldon Wager, the away," commission's director in Islamabad.

The numbers peaked Sunday, when there were nearly 300 people waiting outside the commission office, he said.

Some had even sold their few personal possessions to finance the 170-kilometre trip from the border city of Peshawar to Islamabad, hoping it was the first stop on a journey to the United

Israel appeals for funds to settle Soviet Jews

TEL AVIV (AP) --- Israeli leaders Tuesday urged American Jews to boost donations to help meet an expected \$300 million deficit in the programme to absorb a wave of Soviet immig-

Finance Minister Shimon Peres told a group of 100 fundraising rabbis from the United States and Canada that Israel was willing to cut its standard of living to absorb the immigrants, but expects help from Jewish communities over-

"Even if we have to cut our standard of living we will absorb the immigrants," Peres said. "This is our most important job, to save Jews and give the state greater capabilities. "Together we shall bring them

over here and make this country stronger," he said to the Israel Bons Rabbinic Conference. The rabbis were responsible for selling almost \$130 million in Israel bonds last year.

Meir Shitreet, treasurer of the quasi-governmental Jewish Agency, said the agency expects 100,000 Soviet immigrants, 30,000 more than are provided for in the 1990 budget.

Increased immigration will

deficit of \$300 million, he said

Jewish Agency Chairman Simha Dinitz said agency officials plan to meet with leaders from the United Jewish Appeal and the United Israel Appeal next week in New York to ask them to increase their fund raising target of \$500 million over five years.

"I am convinced that American Jewry, as it did in the past, as well as world Jewry, wil partly bear the expenses of this enormous project of returning the Jewish people to their country," Dinitz said. "This is our demand from them and I believe they will

Dinitz said Israel needs \$3 billion over three years to provide jobs and housing for the Soviet immigrants. He said in that period Israel will provide \$2 bilion, the world Jewish community will raise \$500 million and \$500 million will be provide in loans backed by the U.S. government.

Tuesday night, 50 rabbis from the Israel bonds delegation met almost 300 arriving soviet immigrants. A spokesman for the Jewish Agency said that this month Soviet Jews have been arriving at the rate of 500 per day.

hartoum Census in R

KHARTOUM (AP) — Most Khartoum residents obeyed orders of Sudan's military rulers Tuesday and stayed at home for a census that seemed aimed at weeding out more than 1.5 million refugees and displaced southern Sudanese sheltering in the capital area.

Streets were described except for occasional police checkpoints, giving scant evidence of at least five million people of Khartoum and its suburbs and Omdarman, its twin city across the Nile River.

By government decree, public and private employees had the day off. Public transportation was stopped, and police patrols enforced a curfew from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (0600-1500 GMT). Sudan's state-owned television,

which normally transmits from the early evening, went on air at 10 a.m. (0800 GMT) to entertain the homebound Khartoumers with light cutertainment programmes, soccer and American professional wrestling. Officials said Tuesday's capital-

area head count marked a step toward another national tabulation but have not said specifically why it was ordered. It appeared likely, however,

that Omar Hassan Al Bashir's government wanted to determine Sudanese

the number of refugees and displaced people, probably to facili-tate their transfer later to other Onestions asked nationality,

birthplace and when and why non-Khartoum natives moved to the capital. In a statement repeatedly read

on television and radio Sinday, Monday and Tuesday, Khartoum's military commissioner, Mohammad Osman Mohammad Saced, ordered: "All people living in the capital must remain indoors. The city will be closed to. incoming and outgoing vehicle and train traffic... to facilitate the counting."

The general's statement said people who could not miss work and people going to the airport would have to have permits obtined Monday from the central military area headquarters in Khartoum.

Sudan's last national ceasus was in 1983, under the military government headed by Jastar Numeiri, which was overthrown two years later. Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's civilian government estimated before it was ousted by the military last June 30 that the capital had five million to # ===== seven million residents, not at the counting refugees and displaced

PAR BUT

""

- Lidered

SCHOOL ST.

ac retac

1 27777

SEE IT LITTLE

西京

्रवाह्यदः

100 1 200 GECC

I've wire .

ti de me

on House

Cas ROLL

े व जर क

TE SECOND A

- but the first

31 hanged in

NICOSIA (AP) --- Thirty-one people, including three women, were hanged Wednesday in Iran after they were convicted on drug-smuggling charges, the Isla-mic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said.

The agency, monitored in Cyprus, said 10 of those hanged were members of one international ring smuggling various drugs throughout the Middle East including opium.

They were among 23 people executed at dawn at a prison in Karaj west of Tehran who were "involved in the spread of corruption" by drug smuggling, it said. Three were women and four were

Eight other "professional drug dealers" were hanged in the cities of Shiraz, Sabzevar and Saveh, the agency reported in a later dispatch. Those executions apparently were performed in Under Iran's theocratic laws,

anyone convicted of "spreading sexual offences.

corruption on earth" can face the death penalty for offences that include drug smuggling, sex off-ences and financial corruption.

A draconian, one-year-old

anti-parcotics law stipulates the

death penalty for anyone found

with even small amounts of heroin or opium, the base foreign. Wednesday's execution toll, albeit high, is not a record for Iran. Authorities have executed as many as 80 people in a single

day, often in public. Human rights organisations have condemned the large number of executions in Iran's crackdown since it was launched a year and argo. Opponents of the regime say drug smugglers, but political pris-

The Financial Times of London reported Tuesday that for the first time in living memory, three people were beheaded, rather than hanged, in the western city of Hamadan for drunkenness and

Jibril: Lockerbie accusation is attempt to blackmail Syria "But by the same token I want found guilty by a Swedish district court last Dec. 21 of aiding and BEIRUT (Agencies) — Hardline captain who heads the popular

Palestinian guerrilla leader Ahmad Jibril said Tuesday Westcrn accusations that he engineered the bombing of a Pan Am jumbo jet over Scotland was a deliberate attempt to blackmail

"We believe that this campaign is aimed at blackmailing Syria and President Hafez Al Assad because the United States and (President George) Bush believe the time is ripe to settle scores with countries and movements hostile to imperialism." Jibril told a hastily-arranged press confer-

Jibril, a former Syrian army Syria outright so they did it in-

JORDAN TELEVISION

Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), has been blamed for the midair explosion of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland Dec. 21, 1988.

All 259 people on board and 11 people on the ground were killed. Jibril claimed that the United States and France also hold Syria responsible for the twin suicide truck bombings of the American marine base and the French paratroop headquarters in Beirut that killed 241 U.S. servicemen and 58 Frenchmen in 1983.

"But they do not want to face

directly by trying to implicate us in the (Lockerbie) bombing," Jibril told the packed news conference at Mar Elias Palestinian refugee camp in west Beirut.

"We say it loud and clear that President Hafez Al Assad is not a Noriega and Svria is not a Banana republic," the unshaven, tiredlooking Jibril said in reference to the recent U.S. invasion of Panama and the subsequent arrest of its former dictator Manuel

Noticga.
Asked whether he condemns the Lockerbie bombing, Jibril said. "We condemn all acts that lead to the killing of civilians and

to ask, hasn't bush in his recent attack on panama willfully killed children, women and infants?" Asked to comment on reports

that his group and Iran plotted the Lockerbie attack together, Jibril said, "These are just fab-rications that are not based on any kind of truth." Suspect appeals

A. Palestinian suspected of involvement in the Pan Am barbing appealed Tuesday against a life sentence in Sweden for other bombings, his lawyer said. Mohammad Abu Talb, 35, was abetting murder and other offences arising from bomb attacks in Copenhagen and Amsterdam in 1985. His lawyer, Sven-Erik Sjogren,

said he would appeal to a Stockholm regional court, which under Swedish legal procedure must grant him a second court hearing. The appeal document repeated Abu Talb's denial of any involvement in the bombings and called

for an acquittal. The verdict on Abu Talb, tried with three other Palestinians who also received jail sentences, was delivered a year after the Locker-

Talb has been formally identified as a suspect in the police

investigation into the Lockerbie bombing but has denied any involvement. Sjogren said Scottish police attended an interrogation session about Lockerbie with Abu Talb

last month. The session was stop-

pod after only 20 minutes because Abu Talb and his lawyer were unhappy about the number of interrogators. "We haven't heard from the Scottish police since before

Christmas. We have the feeling that their interest is fading, Sjogren told Reuters.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Tet: 773111-19 PROGRAMME ONE 15:49 15:45 17:10 Programme review hikiren programme Book of Adventure

News for the Deaf Religious programme Health programme Programme review Programme review
.... News to Arabic
..... Local series PROGRAMME TWO Tel Pere Tel Fils

nce aux chansons News in French dence on Tourne News in Arabi A Different World NBA Basketball News in English ... A Lion in the Street PRAYER TIMES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Annusciation Tel. Terraeuta Church Tel: 622366 Church of the Annunciation Tel. Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543. Catholic Church Tel. 771331. Orthodox Church Tel, St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church

WEATHER alletin supplied by the Department of

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Scients Tel. 815817 and 654932.

It will be cold and partly cloudy with easterly moderate wind. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and

scas caun.	
Min./max.	temp
Aqaba	5/17 -1/11
Southern Jordan Valley Northern Jordan Valley	5/15
Yesterday's high temperatures man 8, Aqaba 16, Humidity ret Amana 53 per cent, Aqaba 1	: Am
Amman 53 per cent, Agaba :	34 per

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY** 661912

636730

EMERGENCIES

630341 Civil De 192, 621111, 637777 891228 605800

623101 774111

AMMAN 664171/4 6722719 Al-Ahli, Abdali Al-Ahli, Abdali Al-Bahir, J. Ashushch Army V. 666127*1*37 891611/15 en Alia Ho Amal Hospital
ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital Zarqa National Hospi

asura Hospital .. (02)275555 tholic Hospital ... (02)272275 fees Hospital (02)247100 (03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA** INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

> ARTIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights Abu Dhabi, Bahrain R

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanisa (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (III)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

Other Flights (Terminal 2) . Dubei EF 19:00 19:25 Royal Jordanian (PJ) Flights (Terminal (1) Aqaba di Rome RJ Kuwait (add.) RJ Abu Dhabi RJ Cairo RJ Rehrain Doha Ri 21:30 Other Flights (Terminal (2)

Bahrain, Muscat (GF)
Kuwait (KU) 14:50 15:00 15:30 **MARKET PRICES** FOR FRIDAY

JOEDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19 PROGRAMME ONE Children programme
Religious programme
Priday's penyer
Sports programme
Religious seminar 420 / 380 450 / 400 400 / 350 tec from Omes Programme review
...... News in Azahic
Local programme
Arabic series 120 / 80 150 / 120 300 / 240 550 / 500 160 / 100 800 / 700 ay in Arabic PROGRAMME TWO
17:90 Des Chiffres Et de Lettres
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:20 News in Araby
News in Araby
Cost 19:16 19:36 20:36 20:36 21:16 22:00 22:26 350 / 300 400 / 350 250 / 200 130 / 100 450 / 350 120 / 80 PRAYER TUES



Al Risbeh (Petra photos)



Deputies stress public's responsibility, reciprocation

By Nermeen Marad Jordan Times Staff Reporter

io Sci lay, k ministra Mobile people instra be day ing vi action

t meg

the is

the 🖭

by h

ve mic ex

ffence:

ng, sa: 2011441 10-yea: paint: your k

ens d

ase me

THE PARTY

remi:

re cat:

gament large = ranse chedit regime ted at olition

s of in: nat fir: mory, it ied, at westen: centes!

12 to 12 to

34.

AMMAN - The fact that Jordan is witnessing new de-velopments in its political, social and economic policies is no longer the newsy lead to any newspaper report, However, attempts to define this new era in a legible manner is a task now shouldered by professional associations, political parties and the public ar large.

To guarantee honest anplication of articles of the Constitution after three decades of an "emergency" which block-ed the proper development of the democratic process seems to be the wide umbrella under which the members of the Lower House of Parliament are now working.

What are the prerequisites for the success of this "democratic and free era" in light of the absence of any political indoctrination towards this end for over 32 years?

A former Arab nationalist. a Communist and an Islamist, all now members of the Lower House, endeavoured Tuesday to shed light on the "horizons of the new era in Jordan" in an open symposium held by the Jordan Engineers Association at the Professional Associations Complex.
Mohammad Faris Al Taraw-

neh (Karak), Issa Madanat (Karak) and Yacoub Qarrash (Amman) delivered short-speeches in which they high-lighted the first indications of the existence of the political will in Jordan to reinforce and introduce a new era which would allow higher political, social and economic participation by the public.

All three deputies agreed that the total freedom extended to citizens of all political leanings with no bars what-soever to contest in the Nov. 8 elections was the first step towards a "positive and interest-ing way of life" for the Kingdom. They noted that the pointed abstinence from applying provisions of the Elec-tion Law to prevent known political activists from seeking seats in the Lower House was followed by a series of measures reinstating political and social freedoms as well as the freedoms to work and travel without the interference of

security departments. THe steps and measures adopted by the government were many and often preempted demands by the Lower House itself and although parliamentarians have been underlining the need for continued government moves along the same line, the three deputies who addressed Tuesday's gathering called on the public to reciprocate the moves undertaken by the executive authority as well as Parliament and to raise their level of awareness of the political im-

The horizon of the new cra is determined by your outlook an independent Islamist, exhorted the audience at the Professional Associations Com-

plications of the measures.

"This is not only an interval between two cras," he said. "With your intelligence and your steadfastness and depending on your reciprocation with the new stage and not leaving decisions to parliamentary discussions or government decisions, you can determine the future of this era," Qarrash asserted.

Madanat, a self-declared communist, placed great faith in the awareness and the consiconsuces of the people of Jordan and expressed his faith in their "intelligence by instinct.

"Our people have experi-ence... they know how it feels not to have democracy and to be oppressed," he said. "So now they will be very careful with what they have received

This concern and protection of what he described as 'democratic airs," and his faith in the people's zeal over continuing the "foundations of democracy and ensuring its continuation and development is the main gain towards solving all its problems and avoiding any repetition of the past." Tarawneh, an Arab nationalist, pointed out that

public participation in the building of a new Jordan and making decisions aimed at creating justice ruled by the law "will develop the mentality of the people from the state of negative thinking to positive and fruitful interaction."

He warned against what he described as "extremism in public thinking and overstepping the limits of reality or not absorbing it," and said that this situation will help create "a state of imbalance in dealing with the new democratic moves."

National charter

All three parliamentarisms said they found no need for a national charter governing political pluralism in the Kingdom. However, they also con-ceded that there was little they could to do to preempt the drafting of the charter, which His Majesty King Hussein has said would be presented to the

people for a referendum, The deputies maintained that the concern over the creation of a national charter was that it would "supercede the constitution, representing a breach of the constitution, and pose a dilemma to the work of

the courts." al question: What would happen if a situation occurred whereby there was a controversy over an issue pertaining to political life in Jordan? "How will the court rule then? Will they go back to the original, which is the Constitution, or refer to the national charter, and thus undermine the Con-

stitution?" Madanat argued that Article 16 II of the Constitution stipulates that "Jordanians are entitled to establish societies and political parties provided that the objectives of such societies and parties are lawful, their methods peaceful and their bye-laws not contrary to the provisions of the Constitution." The article guarantees Jordanians an absolute right in forming political parties with-out "interference" from a

national charter, he asserted. In light of this article, the argument of the deputies is that the country's political activists need no further qualified conditions to setting up parties.

Obviously they fear that there could be provisions in the proposed national charter which would curtail or impose limitations on the freedoms enjoyed by political parties as and when they are created.

On the other hand, the deputies skirted the possibility of the national charter reaffirming religious coexistence of Jordanians in the Kingdom and underlining the right of people of all religions to work together as equal citizens as well as emphasising the need for national unity among all Jordanians regardless of ethnic

origins.
The issue of the national charter, according to observers, remains unclear until defined by the expected-to-beappointed royal commission which will be entrusted with charting the document.

The Lower House, in its reply to the speech from the throne Nov. 27, called for direct participation by Lower House members in drafting the national charter despite the fact that no specific details have been released whether or not deputies would be asked to be members of the royal commission.

Badran visits Risheh fields

ter Mudar Badran Wednesday paid an inspection tour of natural gas fields at Al Risheh district close to the border with kraq and said later that natural gas prospection programmes were

moving in the right direction. The visit came two days after Badran heard a briefing on gas and oil prospecting operations at Al Risheh presented by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taber, who announced that surveys had revealed the presence of vast gas reserves in the area.

Badran visited the site of a rig called Jerash and was briefed on

the progress of drilling.

He was told that the Natural Resources Authority (NRA), which undertakes the drilling operations employing national teams, had purchased the rig for 4.5 million.

NRA teams have to date drilled three gas wells, which altogether produce 40 million cubic feet of gas on a daily basis, Badran was told.

At present, the rig is being used to drill a fourth well at a depth of 2,700 metres and it is hoped that pumping of gas will begin by next week.

Badran, accompanied by the

minister of energy, visited a sta-

AMMAN (J.T.) - Prime Ministion which processes the passage of gas to the turbines at a power station that generates electricity. The power station provides nearly 15 per cent of the total national electricity output, and is driven by gas produced at Al Risheh.

Power generation operations will be boosted once two additional gas turbine units have been installed at the power station at

Once the two gas turbine units are transferred from their present location at a JEA facility near Amman to Al Risheh and start producing electricity, Jordan is expected to save around \$10 million worth of fuel for energy generation every year, according to the minister.

In addition, the ministry has also plans to use Al Risheh gas in local industries and petrochemical plants, the minister said last

Speaking after the visit, the prime minister voiced deep appreciation to the workers at the oil gas fields and the power station. Once well number 18 has become fully operational, he said the country can go ahead with setting up a petrochemical plant powered by the natural gas obtained at the Risheh district. Several officials accompanied the prime minister on the visit.

Al Ra'i, Al Dustour elect board members

AMMAN (J.T.) - The general assemblies of two local Arabic dailies Wednesday elected their boards of directors at separate meetings, in accordance with a programmes and operations. government order to do so following the reversal of a decision taken in 1988 by the Economic Security Committee (ESC). The Jordan Press Foundation,

which publishes the Arabic daily Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times, elected the following members to serve on the board: Mahmoud Al Kayed, Mohammad Al Amad, Ali Abul Ragheb and Ramzi Muasher (from the private sector) who were joined also as board members by Radwan Abu Hammoudeh, Ahmad Taher, Yousef Al Suradi and Samir Qarden from the Social Security Corporation (SSC) and Ali Ghar-aibch from the Jordan Investments Corporation.

The Jordan Press, Publishing and Distribution Company (Al Dustour) elected as its directors Kamel Al Sharif, Mahmoud Al Sharif, Hassan Al Tal, Simaan Al Bouri and a representative of the Jordan Arab Investment Bank.

by Riad Al Saifi, Dr. Adnan

represented by Radi Ibrahim. Both boards are to meet Thursday to elect their chairmen and discuss the two establishments'

On Dec. 11, the ESC took a decision reversing its own deci-sion of August 1988 of assuming in administrative and editorial control of the two papers. The government became a major shareholder of the three papers on Jan. 1, 1986 after transforming the papers from private into public shareholding companies.

The government, through the SSC and other organisations, owns 61 per cent of the shares of Al Ra'i, 53 per cent of Al Dus-tour and 85 per cent of Sawt Al Shaab, which was originally established as a public shareholding company.

Last week, Minister of In-

formation Ibrahim Izzeddin said that the government of Prime Minister Badran plans to reex-amine the status of the press and reconsider the question of news-

paper ownership.
izzeddin said in a statement to the Jordan Times that the prime The SSC is to be represented minister had specifically stated that there should be a clearly Abdul Halim Abbas, Abdul llah defined concept separating own-Al Tabbaa, while the Jordan Investments Corporation will be dom of expression.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

GUVS ANNOUNCES PROJECT: The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) is to take part in a social development project which will be carried out in the southern parts of Jordan in cooperation with the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF), GUVS President Abdullah Al Khatib as quoted Wednesday by Al Dustour Arabic daily newspaper. Khatib said that GUVS would contribute JD 20,000 to the JD 100,000 project aimed at helping poor families raise their living standards through small and medium sized schemes. The project, which will mostly benefit rural areas and residents of villages in the south, will be conducted through charitable and voluntary societies, Khatib added.

TUNISIAN MINISTER MEETS ENVOY: Tenisian Minister of Tourism Mohammad Jgham Wednesday received Jordan's Ambas-sador to Timisia Talal Sat'an Al Hassan and discussed with him tourism cooperation, means to develop cooperation in the field of hotel management, and the prospects of holding a Jordanian touristic week in Tunisia in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and the Royal Jordanian (Petra).

ROMANIAN COMMEMORATION: The Romanian community in Jordan will attend a mass Friday at the Greek Orthodox Church in Abdali to mourn the victims of the revolution that toppled Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. The new Romanian leaders have called for a day of mourning Friday for the Romanians who fell under the guns of Ceausescu's secret police,

BIO-ENERGY COURSE: The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has participated in a training course on bio-energy held recently in Mogadishu, Somalia. The course, attended by researcher at the RSS Renewable Energy Research Centre, Khaled Touqan, helped exchange information and expertise among participating experts in renewable energy applications from Arab countries (Petra).

ZABEN MEETS IRAQI DOCTORS: Health Minister Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben had a meeting Wednesday with a delegation representing Iraqi forensic doctors. The delegation is now on a visit to Jordan to discuss bilateral cooperation. Zaben said that Jordan was keen to boost bilateral cooperation to serve the interests of the Jordanian and Iraqi people. The two countries, he said, can exchange expertise and information related to primary health care as well as other fields (Petra).

MEAT CHECKS: Heads of municipal councils in the Kingdom will adopt necessary measures to inspect all stores which sell frozen meat to make sure that temperatures at refrigerators do not rise above -18 degrees Centigrade, according to a demand made by the Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Environment Abdul Karim Al Daghmi. The demand, adopted in accordance with recommendations presented by the Ministry of Health, provides for destroying frozen meat kept outside refrigerators. Violators will be prosecuted (Petra).

JIEC BOARD: The Cabinet has decided to extend the membership of government and public institutions' representatives in the Jordan Industrial Estate Corporation (JIEC). The members are Mohammad Mahdi Al Farhan, Adel Al Qdah, Dr. Safwan Touqan, Mohammad Saleh Al Hourani, Munther Al Sa'ndi, and Mansour Al Utoum (Petra).



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday receives Syrian around-the-world traveller Ahmad Habbii

King meets Syrian traveller

AMMAN (Petra) - His cated to childhood." Majesty King Hussein met at the Royal Court Wednesday with a Syrian around the world traveller, who presented the King with a brass shield.

said was being made under the slogan of: "Everything is dedi-

Habbili started his trip from the Syrian city of Quneitra and will end it at the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Quneitra was occupied and destroyed by

Israel in the 1967 Arab-Israeli The traveller, Ahmad Mohammad Habbili, told King Hussein about his trip which he war while Hiroshima was devastated in 1945 by an American atomic bomb.

The shield presented to the

King carried an inscription expressing appreciation of his efforts to serve Arab interests

an the cause of peace. Later Wednesday, Minister of Youth Ibrahim Ghababsheh met Habbili and praised his mission as an "undertaking which is intended to demonstrate Arab youths' role in entrenching friendship and peace in the world."

ACC ministers review housing and construction

AMMAN (J.T.) - Ministers in charge of housing and reconstruc-tion in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) opened a two-day meeting in Amman Wednesday to discuss cooperation among the ACC countries in housing, construction and related affairs.

Dr. Hilmi Nammar, ACC secretary-general, said the Amman-based ACC secretariat was willing to offer subcommittees on construction and housing the required machinery to implement projects in this sector and help provide better and more homes for citizens of the Arab World.

Addressing the opening session, Nammar said the ACC General Secretariat was currently preparing the ground for establishing a central data bank that can provide the specialised com-mittees with information to promote their work.

Despite the current difficult economic conditions in the Arab World, proper attention should be directed towards the housing and reconstruction sector since it has a direct impact on the lives of Arab citizens, Nammar said. At the outset of the session, Minister of Public Works and

resents one more step towards achieving integration among Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen and He expressed appreciation to

the four technical teams which prepared the work for the ministerial meeting, Egyptian Minister of Recon-

struction and Housing Hasaballah Al Kafrawi underlined the importance of housing for the ACC countries, and said that the ACC possesses vast potentials that remain to be fully and properly exploited. Iraqi Minister of Housing Tah-

er Hassoun said the Amman meeting serves as a solid ground on which the foor ministers can build their future cooperation in the housing and reconstruction fields.

North Yemeni Minister of Municipalities and Housing Ali Hamadani told the meeting that North Yemen, which has just arrived at a formula for unity with South Yemen, regards the meeting as one more step to pool the Arab countries resources, and achieve the ACC's objectives.

The ministerial meeting will

Housing Abdul Raouf Al Rawab-deh said the two-day session rep-pared over the past three days by pared over the past three days by a preparatory committee, which investigated and discussed unification among the ACC countries in matters related to specifications and standards, construction operations, legislation and laws governing building and the work of engineering consultancy firms in the four states.

> Following the morning session, the ACC delegations visited the Abu Nuseir Housing Estate northwest of here and listened to a briefing on the project, which was implemented by two foreign companies.

> > Badran meets delegates

The ACC ministers were later received by Prime Minister Mudar Badran. They reviewed with bim cooperation among ACC states in housing and reconstruction and briefed him on the outcome of Wednesday's

The prime minister paid tribute to the ministers' efforts, which, he said, contribute most positively towards ACC integration.

Workshops to market therapeutical Ma'in spa

try of Tourism is preparing for a series of workshops in March designed to market Zarqa Ma'in therapeutical spa in the Arab World and to attract more tourist groups in Jordan, Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabariti announced here Wednesday.

"The spa at Ma'in is considered the largest therapeutical centre using mineral waters in the Middle East and the ministry plans to boost its operations and help attract more visitors to it and to the neighbouring archaeological and touristic sites," the minister said during a tour of tourist and archaeological areas in Madaba district, 35 kilometres south of

The Ministry of Tourism is currently conducting a comprehensive survey of tourist and archaeological sites in the Kingdom in order to include them in a special book which will be sold in the Arab World, Kabariti said. He said that such a project was bound to attract non-Jordanian

MADABA (Petra) - The Minis- investors to Jordan's tonrists

The ministry has adopted the idea of linking the Ma'in spa complex with neighbouring Mikawer and Deir villages in Madaba and the Dead Sea to the west through a network of roads to offer visitors the chance to tour these regions, Kabariti added.

He said that initial agreement was reached with the Ministry of Public Works to open agricultural roads as a first step linking all these regions in the course of boosting tourism and helping local farmers transport their produce to markets.

standing with the local company area, Kabariti said. operating the Ma'in spa complex improve their services. The com-pany has also tentatively agreed antiquities.



Abdul Karim Al Kabariti

to purchase 70 per cent of its food needs from the Madaba district Kabariti said the Ministry of and to give priority in employ-Tourism had reached an under-ment to citizens from the Madaba

The municipality of Ma'in and to allocate part of its revenues as the local museum were visited by grants to the municipal council of Kabariti, who was accompanied Ma'm and the village councils of on the tour by ministry officials Mikawer and Deir to help them and Dr. Ghazi Bisheh, director-

Syria, Jordan reach agreement on travel

DAMASCUS (J.T.) - A joint Syrian-Jordanian committee has reached agreement here on ways to facilitate transit and transport operations between Jordan and Syria in a bid to boost tourism and promote transport in line with resolutions passed by the joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher

Dr. Mohammad Simadi. secretary-general of the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications who headed the Jordanian side to the talks, said that the two sides had agreed to organise matters related to bus terminals, fares and other services connected with passengers

China announces preparation for September Asian Games

anced Olympic village was built in Amman Tuesday and held China in September.

AMMAN (Petra) — Members of a visiting Chinese Olympic Committee have reported that an advited have reported have r

in preparation for the Asian talks with a number of officials Games, which will be held in dealing with bilateral youth and sporting relations as well as Jor-In a press conference they held dan's participation in the Asian Wednesday at the Jordanian Games. The Kingdom has Olympic Committee building in already confirmed its participa-Amman, the delegation members tion in the games.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition entitled "They chose 30 poets" at the French Cultural Centre.

FILMS

* A feature film entitled "It Came Upon Midnight Clear" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

* A Soviet film entitled "The Risk" at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 6:00 р.т.

Jordan Times

MARIMOUD AL KAYED

Editor-in-Chief: DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices: Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366 Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department.

U.S. must blame **Shamir**

NOW that the projected meeting between the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has been effectively put on the back burner as has long been anticipated, Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is shedding crocodile tears over this development. Nothing suits more the designs of Shamir and all the enemies of peace that walk behind him than to see the entire peace process in the Middle East derailed for the upteenth time. It is common knowledge that Shamir is determined to procrastinate over the hard decisions that have to be taken in order for the peace process to have a chance, and is comforted whenever an initiative or proposal to get him on talking

terms with the Palestinians gets bogged down.

There is no doubt that this time around, Baker's five-point plan was nipped in the bud by Shamir right from the word go. His refusal to entertain a role for the PLO was his prescription to deal a death blow to the whole idea and he knew this all along. Once again Shamir and like-minded Israelis have become the real villains in getting the peace process to a dead end and now is the time to speak out more openly about where the responsibility lies for this unfortunate state of affairs in the Middle East. Since all the finger's are pointed in the direction of Shamir and the hard-liners in Israel as the real culprits for strangulating the only peace proposal on the negotiating table, Washington is dutybound to spell out this fact for the entire world to hear. There are no more legitimate or reasonable excuses left to the U.S. to hush up the direct responsibility of Israel for killing off yet another sincere effort to get the Israelis and Palestinians around the negotiating table, and is invited to reveal the guilty party. It serves no useful purpose to keep Israel unexposed and unidentified as the principal obstacle to peace in the Middle East. It is only through naming the guilty party at point blank would the Israeli people begin to reconsider their views and options, while the international community crystallises its final judgement in no uncertain terms about how to proceed henceforth and how to deal with Tel Aviv.

The remaining question is where the parties to the Middle East conflict can go from here, now that there are no more peace initiatives still living and kicking. A more determined effort by the international community to break the Israeli ice about the indespensable role of the PLO in any meaningful negotiations to resolve once and for all the Palestinian case is the best that it can perform at this stage. Now that there are cracks in the Israeli wall again accepting the PLO as the principal party in any responsible negotiations leading to peace and harmony between the Palestinians and the Israelis, it should not be too difficult to widen these cracks and make the Israeli wall of defiance tumble as the Berlin Wall has done in 1989.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'l Arabic daily Wednesday commented on King Hussein's statement at a meeting with an Amercian delegation Tuesday in which he exposed Israel's intransigence vis a vis the Arab-Israeli conflict. Since its creation on Arab soil in Palestine, Israel has not displayed any sign of its genuine desire for peace and has since 1967 been directing its policies towards aggression, the paper noted. King Hussein explained these facts to the visitors in the course of reviewing the situation in the Arab region, urging the American public opinion to help end the conflict in the region and bring about a just peace not only in Palestine but also in Lebanon. and the Gulf region, the paper added. King Hussein said as the Israelis were adopting a hardened position, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Arab nation at large have been offering a hand of peace and seeking to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions based on justice and ensuring an independent state for the Palestinian people in Palestine, the paper noted. It said that the King has again urged the world community to help the Middle East live in peace.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday comments on the situation in the local markets with the absence of sufficient meat that used to come from Romania and other Eastern Bloc countries. "I really wish that imported meat stopped so that our farmers can have the incentive to produce more meat for the market, and our young educated men turn their attention to farming instead of seeking jobs in offices," says Tareq Masarweh. The writer recalls the days when Jordanian families used to be self-sufficient of all food supplies because they used to keep sheep and grow food; and says: "If we love our country we must begin changing our life style and turn our attention to exploiting our resources, our land and our livestock so as to become self sufficient and stop importing food supplies from other countries". The writer calls on the Jordanian public to consume what is being produced locally and to stop a life-style that prevailed in Jordan during the coom years of the 1970s. The writer says that Jordanians have to offer sacrifice so that they can have a brighter

future and end their dependence on others.

Al Dustour Arabic daily said that King Hussein advocated the PLO's ideas for peace based on justice and presented the Arab nation's views which support the PLO. He said that the PLO which represents the Palestinian people has been offering peace to Israel in exchange for land, but the Israelis were adamant in their position and they refuse to give the Palestinians their rights and their lands, the paper noted. It said that the peace onslaught launched by the PLO is feared by the Israelis who are continuing to oppress the Palestinian people under their rule and continue the drive to colonise Palestine. King Hussein, the paper said, told the American delegation that Israel was defying the will of the international community and refusing to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions which can bring about a lasting peace to the region. It said that the United States which helps Israel shoulders a great responsibility as a superpower to establish peace

East Europe's wary reformers watch new leaders

By Nicholas Phythian

VIENNA - Veterans of the street protests that smashed the ist hold on power in Eastern Europe are watching their new leaders like hawks, fearful that prize of democracy will be snatched from under their

With the first free elections in four decades just months away, the votes of the East Bloc's reawakened masses are up for

But many former dissidents say the Communists, in the guise of reformers, are trying to cling to power by sabotaging the demo-

"The people are unhappy. Every days workers come to see me and say 'why did you carry out the revolution. Can't you see that the same old people are still in power," veteran Romanian dissident Doina Cornea said in the town of Chuj.

We are angry because the old Communists are still in power but they are using a different name. Nothing has changed," said a 21-year-old Bucharest student.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev let the genie of people's power out of the bottle with his lasnost and perestroika reforms. Bloodily in Romania, peacefully, elsehwere, his East Bloc Communist allies have been forced to relax their grip on power, leaving the Soviet Union the only Warsaw Pact country that has not abandoned or promised to aban-

don old style, one-party rule. While Gorbachev treads a delicate path between the demands of the Soviet Union's increasingly restive nationalities and hardline Communists, opposition activists elsewhere are giving notice that people's power must mean just

"Down with the Communists," chanted 100,000 marchers Monday in Leipzig, where East Germany's reform movement began. The East German opposition,

their eyes fixed on free elections in May, have threatened to return to the streets and call strikes if the Communists do not give them more say.

They accuse reform Communists still in power of denying them the means of campaigning prop-erly and of spreading fears of a neo-fascist revival to disguise a return of the hated Stasi security police, officially disbanded last

In Romania, the students, one of the few groups that can mobilise nationally, have been the most vocal critics of the National Salvation Front, the provisional government since the December overthrow and execution of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

"We can repeat Timisoara, we can repeated Bucharest," a student leader told a mass weekend rally, referring to the bloodiest actions of the Romanian revolu-

Several thousand students from all over the country, who packed a hall in Bucharest Polytechnic, cheered wildly when one of their leaders said no former Communists should be in power after free elections planned for April.

In Hungary, the opposition accuses the reform Communists in power there of bugging and snooping on non-Communists ahead of free elections planned

"I think we cannot trust the present government," said Laszlo Kover, leader of the opposition youth group Fidesz.

In Bulgaria, the reform Communist government and the opposition leaders are united over the needs to restore the rights of the country's Muslim

But the opposition accuses Communist hardliners of fanning nationalist unrest over the issue, which revives bitter memories of 500 years of Ottoman rule, to hang onto power.

The anti-reformists are trying to fight their last battle over the ethnic issue," said Zhelio Zhelev.

president of the opposition umbrella Union of Democratic

The Gorbachev gamble is that the Communist parties of Eastern Europe have the organisation and popular support needed to hold their own against an opposition that has barely had time to collect its thoughts.

In Poland, where the Solidarity trade union spearheaded the drive towards democracy, this did not work.

Poles ended 45 years of Com-

minist rule last September when Solidarity Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki took power following largely free general

In Romania and Czechoslovakia, it is too late for the Communists with a legacy of bitterness equating their rule with repres-

But elsehwere, a new breed of East European Communists are working hard to break their links with the past and portray them-

cratic socialists. In Hungary, perhaps the most reformist of the old East Bloc

Communist economies, reform Communists now belong to the Hungarian Socialist Party. Bulgarian Communists, who sacked hardliner Todor Zhrvkov

in November, have relaxed state controls, promised elecions and an end to their monopoly on

East Germany's Communist

selves as forward-looking demo- Prime Minister Hans Modrow says new laws will give everyone. an equal election chance.
But in Czechoslovakia, where

former dissident playwright Vac-lav Havel is now president, the pace of Communist change is ipparently not fast enough. Two leading Communist minis-

2 R222

محال ادع

20-20-01

Z3 Zel.

Farks . Serion

C TOUR

232 and 3

VOL.

章四!

da Criff

Sidu Day

ates by

de move

COR OF LAW

de de la contra del la contra del la contra del la contra del la contra de la contra de la contra de la contra del la contra d

Frieder

ters there have taken matters into their own hands, quitting the party and leaving it in a clear minority in the interim coalition running the country until free elections promised by June.

Austria seeks its place as East **Bloc Communism dissolves**

By David Storey Reuter

VIENNA — The collapse of Communist rule in Eastern Europe is stirring hopes and fears in Austria, which for nearly 40 years has seen itself as a neutral ridge between East and West. The hope for new economic and cultural opportunities as the artificial postwar barriers dissolve is tempered by fears among Austrians of an unmanageable influx

from the Eastern neighbours. The government is also weighing how the reshaping of the continent's economic map will affect its own top foreign policy objective - steering Austria into the European Community.

Chancellor Franz Vranitzky reflected the optimistic school of thought in an ebullient New Year message to his 7.5 million countrymen.

"In one stroke, the expression 'country in the heart of europe does not just have a geographic sense but gains a political, economic and cultural dimension," be declared.

But he rejected the idea that Austria might be some form of political hermaphrodite.

"It is often said Austria lies politically between East and West. That is false. In a political sense Austria belongs to the West," he said. Economically it does too, with trade dominated by exchanges with West Ger-

While Vienna and the Czechoslovak city of Bratislava were once linked by a tramline, the Austrian capital has become effectively the terminus of West European rail and road links. Austria is the only country

from which Red Army troops actually withdrew after World War II and, unlike neighbours Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, it has maintained its multi-party democracy, free press and largely private economy.

Last year the government applied to join the European Community, which it considers vital if it is not to be shut out of the single EC market after 1992.

But, reflecting a line in the national anthem that the country is "like a strong heart at the centre of the region," it has taken its pivotal role seriously.

Austria is the site for several East-West security conferences, a United Nations beadquarters and other institutes and it is arranging a world exhibition in 1995 jointly

with Hungary. Peter Michael Lingens, publisher of the Wochenpresse weekly magazine, spoke of a potential for Viennese culture to recapture the glories of the Austro-Hungarian empire, when it drew inspiration from Prague and Budapest.

The end of Communist control and opening up of borders across the region "offer us the greatest opportunities since the collapse of the monarchy (in 1918)," be

"Not because, as some people

may imagine, we could again become the centre of a great world empire but because Austria could re-emerge as a cultural power in the world," once again drawing on its diverse roots across the region.

While political commentators waxed lyrical about the chances for the Alpine state, the response within the overwhelmingly bourgeois society, which has grown rich while the Communist neighbours languished, has been ambivalent. As tens to thousands of

Czechs, Slovaks, Hungarians, Poles and East Germans took advantage of new freedoms to take a peek inside the well-stocked stores of Vienna's consumer society, many in the capital be-

An opinion poll showed that 63 per cont of Viennese found the peaceful invasion across the dismantled iron curtain unwelcome and only 22 per cent said they felt good about it.

free transport and theatre tickets to the obviously badly-off Eastplained of discrimination.

exactly have a great sensitivity for historic moments," said public opinion researcher Rudolf Brets-

came defensive and possessive.

Warm-hearted gestures to offer

ern visitors drew angry protests from some Viennese who com-"It is well known that we don't

Although the Vienna tele-

phone directory is dominated by non-German names and many of the city's 1.5 million people are



themselves refugees from Communist countries, resentment towards foreigners from the East is always near the surface.

A Polish woman in her 30s who has lived in Vienna for more than four years was told sharply by a native Viennese during a row over a disputed parking place:

"Go back to your homeland."
A special cabinet session on the anti-Communist revolution across Austria's northern, southern and eastern borders, confirmed the country should retain its role as a transit and asylum country but tighten its checks on illegal workers.

Many politicians, including

Vranitzky, feel Austria, with its stability and economic success. could be taken as a model by the East Bloc states as they rebuild their economies.

"We too had to start from nothing (after World War II), and today we receive general recognition and respect for our neutrality, our political freedom, our economic success and our Social Security system," the chancellor said.

Other commentators, like veteran conscrvative politician Erhard Busek who has long cultivated Central European links, injected an element of caution. Although Busck saw an opportunity for Austria to assert itself as a key player in the heart of Europe, he warned of the danger of the German-speaking country being viewed as "a third German state" or an historic part of the

Mandela's release offers gains for everybody

By Brendan Boyle Reuter

CAPE TOWN — Nelson Mandela's release after 26 years in jail looks set to bolster the aims of both blacks and whites in South

For blacks, it could fill a leadership vacuum and help to reunite the divided anti-apartheid

For whites, the rewards of releasing the world's most famous political prisoner could include improved credibility in a hostile world and possibly a visit from British Prime Minister Margaret

In the longer term, it could promote a negotiated peace after 30 yeas of low-level guerrilla war between South Africa's white rulers and its disenfranchised balcks, who outnumber them by five-to-

Mandela, 71, signalled for the first time Monday that he expects to be freed soon, asking his wife Winnie to begin preliminary

arrangements for his release. "I don't think we are talking about months any longer," she told reporters after visiting Mandela at the Victor Verster Prison 60 kilometres north east of Cape

Mandela, a Johannesburg lawyer, was second in command of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) when he was arrested in August 1962 to face charges that culminated in a life sentence for plotting to overthrow white rule.

ANC members say he holds no title now within the movement celebrated its anniversary Monday, but he is a member of the policy-making National Executive Committee.

clined to be drawn on whether Mandela could replace ailing President Oliver Tambo, who is being treated in a Swedish clinic for brain damage. Thabo Mbeki, son of Mande-

la's friend and former fellow pris-

oner Govan Mbeki, is widely

The movement has so far de-

Nelson Mandela

tipped to take the job in elections later this year.

Activist sources inside South Africa acknowledge there is some resistance to handing control of

radical rivals including militant ANC army commander Chris Hani could oppose him and Mbeki as being too moderate.
"I think Mandela will take leadership, that he will have enormous influence in the ANC," said Fatima Meer, a pro-

Mandela's personal bigorapher. With the return of Mandela to the disenfranchised people there will be a return of the traditional strong voice and guidance that has chracterised the ANC."

fessor of sociology in Durban and

wants to understand and he wants to guide. He has tremendous confidence in himself and what we could do for South Africa as a facilitator," she said.

Meer said 30 years of oftenvicious government repression had left the anti-apartheid movement fragmented and leaderless. Mandela could fill the gap, rallying squabbling factions in a united drive against apartheid

ment with President F.W. De Klerk's white government,

"He is going to face huge ex-pectations, but he has the love and the respect of people from all factions, from blacks and whites, even from the traditional leaders. "Knowing him as I do, I think

he is going to do his best to bridge the differences and bring the disenfranchised people together."

Meer said she did not expect African leaders to give Pretoria much credit for Mandela's re-

lease, but diplomats based in South Africa disagreed. "Releasing Mandela is the single most important move that the South African government

could make," said one diplomat. "I will transform the situation in many ways, though this act alone will not transform South Africa's relations with the rest of the world. That will depend on what follows," he said.

The diplomats said Mandela's release would be the strongest

the ANC to Mandela, and say and towards a negotiated settle- signal yet of De Klerk's intention to begin substantive talks with credible black leaders about political power sharing. Some also said it would prom-

ote De Klerk's efforts to forge trading links and limited diplomatic ties with other African "It is bound to take further the

porcess that is already under way in South Africa's efforts towards greater access in Africa," said The foreign prize De Klerk is elieved to want most is a visit to Pretoria by Margaret Thatcher,

who would be the first British Prime Minister to visit South Africa in 30 years. "Mandela's release would change the status of that hope from being impossible to being at least a possibility," one Western

diplomat said. At home, De Klerk needs accepted black leaders to sit down with him to talk. Mandels's release could be the biggest impetus yet towards that goal.



Risking their life if they are spotted by Israeli soldiers, these youths paint messages to the community from leaders of the uprising.

The writing is on the wall

By Phillippa Neave

RAMALLAH - One trick you learn on an ordinary day spent in a town like Ramellah in the occupied West Bank is how to turn a busy shopping street into a war zone in under four mhutes: just

Perhaps it was not such an ordinary day: for one thing, the shops were open. After long days of curiew imposed by the Israeli army that had killed all activity. families were scarrying to gather enough staples to face the next three or four days of curfew when they would have to remain locked in their homes all day and night. So people bustled about in the

main street of Ramallah. Suddenly, a group of youths gathered at the corner of the high street and started to whistle. Like a strange domino-effect, metal shutters slammed down one after the other. Within two minutes the street was deserted. Sirens sounded and seconds later, the street was full of military jeeps, soldiers pounced, sweeping the air with their machine guns. But there was nothing or no-one to shoot

The troops went away, but the stores did not re-open. It was a short day for shopkeepers who have lost heavily during two yells of Palestinian rebellion. Lucky if they can sell their wares a few mornings here and there. But then any notion of normality is an illusion in the occupied territories: Workers don't work, students don't study, children don't go to. school, people can't go out or visit each other, civilised society as it exists in other parts of the

world is agonising. Two years of intifada with its demonstrations, killing of teenagers and children by the Israeli army, curiews, arbitrary arrests, restrictions of movement and school closures have destroyed the social fabric to the point that the breakdown of law and order is almost total. For want of any competent authority, people are making their own rules and taking the law into their own hands.

HUNGARY T

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin estimates that about 40,000 Palestinians have been arrested since the unifada began, many of them more than once. And according to United Nations figures 37,000 have been wounded. West Bank schools reopened last summer after nearly 18 months of closure, but they were ordered to close again recently

for two months.

Besides the deaths of children m the streets, one of the most flagrant signs of the disease cating into the social body is the increasing number of executions - or murder, depending on which side you are on - of Palestinians accused of collaborating with the Israeli occupying forces. Twenty years of occupa-tion have produced a substantial crop of people who in some way work or have worked with the Israelis for personal gain, but it seems that recruitment has increased dramatically since the begiming of the uprising.

Said 40-year-old Anita Vitulio territories for over 10 years; "Before the intifada, the authorities used a limited group of collaborators but did not rely on them for high intelligence; they used them mainly for land fraud. It was not a well developed network, they usually chose the marginal elements in society who had already been singled out by the commun-ity as third generation collaborators from families who had worked before with the Turks

American-born Vitulio is married to Palestinian journalist Soum'an Khoury, a correspondent for the international news agency Agence France Presse who is currently in jail. She has worked on human rights issues and is also a writer who has studied the question of collaborators closely. Things have changed a great deal

and the British."

since (the beginning of the upris-ing in) December 1987, she ex-plains: "Now we're seeing a much broader sucep — mass recruit-ing; it is quantity rather than quality that the (Israeli) author-

mics are after." Collaborators reportedly operate in every neighbourhood, village or refugee camp, forming what scores to be an effective network that has spread and mistrust throughout the communities of the occupied territories where approximately 2.3 million Palesti-

Adds Vitulio: "There are different levels of collaborator activi-ties. At the highest level are people who are actually armed by the Israeli anthorities and who use their weapons. We estimate that they number several hundred: there's one in every village, and probably 10 in every town. There are cases when a patrol of Israeli soldiers will be accompanied by the local collaborator to show where houses are that they want to destroy or to point out youths they want to arrest."

Arming collaborators is a re-cent development. They in turn surround themselves with body guards who also carry weapons, effectively constituting a small militia. There is very active participation in militis activities on the part of the Israeli author-ities," Vitulio said.

Instead of receiving weapons, another sort of collaborators are given communication devices, usually 2-way radios, she said. "That way, they can report on the whereabouts of wanted youths, activities, when and where demonstrations are going to start, so that the Israeli soldiers can move in immediately." This seems to be most widespread in

the Gaza Strip. In return for their services, collaborators are given different advantages. "There are several systems. Some people are given land, others local power, i.e. the power to issue permits and li-cences as they please. Others are given drugs, or even sexual favours," Vitulio said.

An unexpected development is that Palestinians are shunning the traditional networks of traffickers dealing in arms or drugs because it is said that either they have sold out to the military authorities which control the routes for these two commodities into the territories, or they are in such a compromising position that they

can easily be blackmailed into collaborating.

Methods of recruiting collaborators vary widely, Vitulio said. There is a known case, in which a high school teacher who was a suspected collaborator invited young students to his house. They were very young and he would here them into very compromising situations and then used photographs or video tapes to black-mail them into reporting on fel-low students and any activities in the school."

"Also, we are seeing very roung children, from the ages of 8 or 9 to 13 being beaten just for intimidation. It is a primitive method of recruiting, but it is widely used to scare them into reporting on the activities of other kids in the schools or neighbourboods."

An age-old method is to plant informers among prisoners. Has-san, who asked that his last name not be used, said he had plenty of time to see how the system works in Israeli prisons. He agreed to an interview the day after he was released from jail, after 45 days in detention. At 27, he has been in and out since he was a young teenager, although no charges have been filed against him. "First of all, the Israeli military

quite often uses collaborators as interrogators. They also mix them with prisoners and some are actually given prison sentences up to life - to make them more believable," he explained. "If they can't get information out of you after interrogation, beating or torture, they can throw you into a whole room full of collaborators. After 45 days of interrogation, a prisoner thinks at last he is among his own people. They'll ask him what political group he belongs to and pretend to be friends. You have to be very careful about what you say to whom in prison these days."

Military statistics show that about 170 Palestinians accused of collaborating have been killed during the past two years, with a sharp increase in recent months. Israelis point to the savagery of the killings, while Palestinians list their long list of "martyus" more than 700 killed by Israeli troops since the beginning of the intifada. Among the Palestinians killed because of collaborators, people often cite the case of Yasser Abdul Ghosh, who at 17 was known as the "dynamo" or "hero" of Ramallah. "One day

he was followed by the Shin Bet (secret service) who were in civi-han clothes," a local school teacher recalled. "They shot him in the neck and wouldn't let the nearby doctor to take care of him. They threw him on the back of a jeep and drove through the town with his head hanging over the edge, leaving a trail of blood

pouring down."
The PLO leadership has called for a stop to the killing of col-laborators and the Israelis have moved to protect the most prominent by allowing them to live in Israel or in Jewish settlements. But the killings will probably go on increasing as people's despair

According to Vitulio and other sources, many executions include due process for the accused: "Palestinians have a very well-worked-out system which operates like an underground people's tribunal. If someone is suspected of criminal activities or active collaboration that is endangering the community, people who have some degree of leadership will issue him a warning — written, by telephone or by actually going to him. If they are in doubt, they will interrogate him. He is given the chance to explain himself, repent and turn in his arms if be's been armed by the authorities. They would only decide to execute him in extreme cases."

But given the breakdown of legal structures after the Israeli troops moved in, and the fragmentation of what was once a close-knit society, there is plenty of room for thugs to wage their own dirty wars, taking advanta of the chaos to act out family feuds and settle accounts.

Groups of youths have set themselves up as would-be lawenforcers. They roam the streets calling themselves the Black Panther or Red Eagle, carrying out executions of collaborators and others, and scaring people into obedience. PLO leader Yasser Arafat has repeatedly called for the disbanding of such groups with little effect.

Palestinians have had bad press for supporting, or at least not condemning the killing of col-laborators, but said Vitullo: "I have never, ever heard one Israeli, somebody in authority like a member of the Knesset (Israeli Parliament), condemn the killing of a Palestinian child" — World News Link.

Focus on people

'Kiss me -- I'm Arabian'

SONS AND DAUGHTERS of first-generation immigrants to the United States are often too busy being, "real Americans," | slaying football, cheerleading at school, making honours lists in college and successful in the professional world. Rarely are they known to take their privileges as American citizens to the political arena. Ethnic politics, as many call it, is a phenomenu which has grown throughout the U.S. in the 1980s and is bound to grow further in the 1990s. Whether Hispanic, African, Italiau, Greek or Arab-American, ethnic politics is no longer considered strange or anti-American, it has become the trend in a new America that is becoming more multi-cultural and multi-racial than ever before.

Jesse Jackson's "Rainbow Coalition," which has writed African, Hispanic and Arab-Americans, is one example of an organised political-ethnic coalition in the U.S. today.

Arab-Americans have been well-adjusted, well-adapted, integrating, industrious, law abiding and tax-paying citizens for the past 100 years. One thing they have not been, however, is politically active. In fact, many argue that Arab-Americans have been precisely the opposite of that. Fearing retributions and intimidations, they have remained mute in America's political arena — possibly for too long. While ethnic minorities were holding fund-raisers and sporting T-shirts such as "Kiss me — I'm Armenian," many Arab-Americans seemed almost to hide their origins or at best "not make an issue of being an Arab-American." But as the song says "the times are — a — changing," and one Arab-American who broke the monot onous inactivity James Zogby, was in Amman on a private visit cearlier this week and agreed to speak to Focus on People about the political developments among Arab-Americans.

At 43, James Zogby, the son of immigrant parents from Kaserwan in Mount Lebanon, is one of a grewing number of "outstanding" Arab-Americans who may he in the process of

changing the face of America."

While America, since its creation, did sport the face of Miss Liberty, it did not always do what it preached. In fact, for many minority groups, who were as loyal to the Amet ican Constitution, if not more so than other Americans, equal p ay for equal work was as much liberty as they ever saw. While it ist might be much amore than what most countries can hope to offer their citizens, America is different.

America has, by its own definition, become a society to which much of the world looked up to as the land. If the free and the brave. Only free and brave are the winners. The partial success of civil rights activist Martin Luther King made I iim brave and some of his people, at least, free of their social and psychological boudage. As a martyr, he became an American hero, a symbol of American freedom to the world, because I re fought and won. Those Americans who marched for a U.S. p ullout from Vietnam were called traitors, the maimed soldiers wit to followed orders to fight the Vietnamese, to save them from themselves, were spat upon once they returned to America. They weren't winners! Enough of America bashing. The point is a nade. Now let us look at a new beginning.

LIKE most other children of immigrants, J ames Zogby was never overly concerned about his parental origins, or that they could make him stand out in any way from the rest of "the kids in the class," and therefore it was not until 12 "disturbing" incident occurred that he became aware of any discrimination from his

"When I was in college in the 1950s.," he recalls. "I became very involved in the anti-war movement and the civil rights movement. Many of my classmates were involved as well, In 1967, I was active in a programme called the 'brothers project." Wounded Vietnamese children were brought to the U.S. to receive medical attention and we, the activists, would help take care of them."

He also recalls the June 1967 war in the the Middle East. "The war was covered in a very biased mannier by the American media. Many of my fellow anti-war civil rights, activists who had protested violently against the napalming of Vie tnamese children cheered in joy about the mapalming of Arab children in Palestine. They cheered for the "victor," Israel. 'Ic. say the least, I was numb. One of my fellow activists who was also a member of the Jewish Defence League, looked at me and said: 'You Arab dog.' There was no reason for him to say that. I had not even talked about my Arab origins and had still not been table to comment on the events numbness I got Mad," Zogby remembers.
In 1971 Zogby and his Irish-American wife went to Lebanon.

The immediate reason for the visit was to gather information for his dissertation. "My wife read Cicorge Antonius' book 'The Arab Awakening' before we left. While we were in Lebanon we saw so much and talked to so many people. We visited a lot of camps. On the way back my wife looked for me and said, James, you know we will never be the same again after this." It was true," says

Zogby obtained a doctorate in comparative religion and a doctoral fellowship from Princeton University. In the late 1970s he founded the Palestine Hurran Rights Campaign. In 1980, he co-founded the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) with fellow Arab-American James Abu Rizk. In 1982, he organised the "Save Lebanon," campaign. In 1985 he founded the

Arab American Institute (AAI).

The Washington, D.C.-based AAI serves a grass-root constituency of 2.5 million Arab-Americans. The main beneficiaries are urban merchants and grocers, "We got our people in touch with 'the American system.' We got them in touch with aldermen, made them understand that they didn't have to bribe anyone to get a permit. Everyone thinks when Arab-Americans become

politically active, they are all going to sit there and talk about the U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. That's not true. Arab-Americans have been around for over 100 years and they have the same problem is as all other Americans - schools, laxes. plumbing, urban hous ing - that should be and stand." Zoeby

By Mariam M. Shahin

Zogby's attempt to move the "Arab-Amc:. : . senda" into the country's political mainstream has been in uphill battle. One of the most recent examples of discrimination against Arab-Americans by 'U.S. politicians came in 1988. The case of the 'Dinkins campaign" became a central turning point in the awareness of many. Arab-Americans. "We were told bluntly that Arab-Americans ne ed not apply. It was as simple as that. David Dinkins, who is our fellow member in the Rainbow Coalition, felt it would be disadvar reageous for his campaign if it was known that Arab Americans a apported him. To say the least, we were furious. Besides being an insult to us, it was an insult to the Jews as well, and I told I hem that," Zogby recalls. It is known that on several occasions U.S. candidates, running for a variety of public offices, have sent back campaign contributions that came from

"We kicked up a big fuss over the Dinkins affair. Our people are like all other Americans and we refuse to accept discrimination on any level. Jewish organisations in the U.S., as far as I know, have nothing to do with what's going on. The candidates fear the 'wrath ()f the Jewish voter, should the candidate seem 'pro-Arab' oir sc), say the candidates."

As far as U.S. -Middle East relations are concerned, "you know if there are other ways to skin that cat... I would love to see a creative approach coming from the U.S. government that would make a stable Middle East peace between Palestinians and Israelis so we can get on to other business," Zogby says. He refers to the Baker plan as "more of the same in the Kissingerian mold." Success is re lative and Zogby admits that Arabs in America

have a long w ay to go, "before we get 'there." Some success ies have already been made. "In 1988, there were 55 Arab-Amer ican delegates to the Democratic convention in Atlanta. Amor ig other things our rallying on the convention floor resulted in the adoption of 10 state convention amendments calling for Pal estinian statehood," Zogby points out.

He points caut that many Arab-Americans have high ranking public positio ns." Over two dozen Arab-Americans are legislators; 24 are 1 mayors; 30 are judges and two are senators."
"We care a bout our own welfare in America, and yes, we do care about U.S.-Arab relations. That is only natural," Zogby

"I was ples sed with the way the American media were covering the intifad a. Although coverage has become less frequent, when it is covered it is covered fairly. Americans now know that Palestiniar: children are threatening the mightiest military power in the Mid dl.e East. Other than the Israeli lobby and the far right Evangelical Christians, Israel hardly has any fans in the U.S. anymore. P cople are becoming more aware of what it means to have three: | billion plus of American tax dollars going to Israel. It means U.S. tax dollars are subsidising the occupation. South Lebanon lu as been annexed by Israel for all practical purposes," Zogby points out.

Zogby it's getting involved in another committee. This time it's a committee: on common security. "We are going to try to make a transfer fr com a war-based or defence-based economy to a welfare or comment on consumption-based economy. The whole military economy grew out of the Marshal plan. But the world has changed. So we hope to do away with weapons and military economies: and attach more responsibility to the tax dollar," be As a new generation of Arab-Americans grows up in the

political ar ena their forefather's never knew, Zogby bopes they will be able a to contribute more to their respective communities, freedom in America and understanding between Americans and

"When! I started we had no organisation, no infrastructure, We gave our I sids the ADC, the AAUG and the AAI. Now let them fight and let them win. I know they will," Zogby says with conficienc e.

Announcement from the Government Tenders Directorate Tender No. 70/89/central **Expansion of Zarga sewage** pumping station

Further to the announcement published on 07/11/1989 and ()9/11/1989 in the local newspaper concerning the abovi ementioned tender.

The new date set for bid opening at the Government Tend ers Directorate is now at 13:30 on Wednesday, Marc :h 14th, 1990 instead of January 13th, 1990. Addr endum No. (2) clarifying all questionnaires submitted to the Water Authority and the Government Tenders Dire ctorate will be issued soonest possible.

Eng J. Salem Qudah Ch airman of the Central Tenders Committee Ge neral Director/Government Tenders Directo-

For the best

for your

MONEY...

ADVERTISE

in the

Saudi Real Estate

םם 🖊 םם

Real Estate

Agency

In Town

Rental Dept.

Call Soha 687821/22

ANDARKETPLA

EVERY .

For all your: Packing, Air Freight Forwarding, Customs Clearance Door-to-door Service, Ticketing and Reservation needs, please call: AMIN KAWAR & SONS

Abdel Hamid Sharal Street P.O. Box 7806 Amman, Jordan Tel. 604676, 604696



DAY PEOPLE WHO NEED MAINTENANCE SERVICES. CALL US! **Electrolux** P.O.Box 925229 AMMAN Tel. 604671

Professional Quality in I Hour Service Develop your colour film at our shop and get:-· JUMBO photo size 30% Lurgar · Free eniargement 20 x 30 cm

> Shmeisani: - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042 Swefieh tel: 823891

STUDIO HAIG

Konica Konica Same Day Service for all E6 films at Salbashian Trading Co. Wadi Sagra str. Next to Petra Bank Headquarters Tel: 633418

Slide film

Processing by

Kashmir Hestaurant FIRST CLASS INDIAN restaurant Special Executive Luncheons Take away service available Open Daily 12.30-3.30 pm

7.30-11.30 pm After the Philadelphia Hotel Towards 3rd circle Tel:659519 659520

Jordan Times'

JORDAN MARKET PLACE



Ahliyyah Girls School

lst Circle, Jabal Amman, near Take away is available Open daily 12:00-3:30 р.ш. 6:30-Midnight

慕堂餐廳 MANDARIN **Chinese Restaurant**

The only typical Chinese cuisine in Amman. Chinese Raming pot is available Take away available Open daily 12:00 - 15-30 18:00 - 23:30 Wadi Sagra Road - near Traffic

Bridge

Amman, Jordan

Tel: 661922

CHINESE RESTAURANT Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket Mongolian Barbeque for

CHEN'S

Lunch Friday only Tel: 818214 Come and taste our specialities Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 6:30 - Midnight



OPEC oil production surges to highest level since 1981

half of this year.

but not enough to bring it in line

with the new supply cap of 22 million barrels a day.

Antill predicted output would

be not much under 23 million barrels a day this month. Lucy Mullins, an analyst at the Lon-

don-based Bardlays De Zoete Wedd, also looked for production

Antill said the group's supply was likely to stay strong because of the attractiveness of higher

prices to the producing nations.

Saudi Arabia, the group's biggest producer, was determined to

maintain its quarter share of

OPEC's total production. To do

Moreover, he said, it appeared

to run around that level.

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) - Oil production by OPEC nations surged to an average of 23.7 million barrels a day in the final quarter of 1 989, the highest level since early 1981, according to estimates released Tuesday.

The International Energy was the highest since it produced Agency (IEA) said in its monthly oil market report that the 13 nations of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries EC) increased output by about 100,000 barrels a day in December to hit 23.9 million barrels a day, the highest all year. The strong level, led by Sandi

Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, topped the group's self-imposed production ceilinig of 20.5 million barrels a day in the October-December

It also was above the new limit of 22 million barrels a day which OPEC oil ministers recently set for the first half of this year. The officials will meet again in March to take a look at market conditions then.

· OPEC's supply to the market in the last three months of 1989

AMMAN (J.T.) — The commer-

cial committee of the Arab Air

Carriers Organisation (AACO)

will hold a meeting here Saturday

to discuss the question of Euro-pean liberalisation of air trans-

port policies following the remov-

al of economic barriers among

European Community (EC)

look into the impact of such

policies on the air transport in-

dustry in the Arab countries and

steps to be taken to deal with the

new challenge for the Arab

Arab airlines who are expected to

take part in the meeting will hear a lecture on this issue by David

Richardson, director of inter-gov-

ernment affairs at British Air-

ways on liberalisation policies,

who will present a paper for discussion at the meeting.

pected to be a follow up to one

held in Cairo in August of last

year. They said that the meeting

BEUING (AP) — A central bank official has said that China hopes

to soon be receiving Western bank loans suspended after last

June's military crackdown on

pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing.

There has been contact with the World Bank and "both sides

are actively studying the resump-tion of loans," said Hong Yun-

cheng, director of the governor's

executive office in the People's

Hong said the West's policy of

withholding new loans will "gra-dually be reversed," adding, "we hope the situation will be im-

Hong acknowledged that the

West's decision to cut off new

credit to China after last spring's

bloody suppression of dissent

"did bring some problems in regard to our access to international

proved as soon as possible."

Bank of China.

(money) markets."

China hopes for new

loans from World Bank:

Civil aviation officials here said

Vice presidents of at least nine

The committee will specifically

countries by 1992.

Arab air team

to discuss Europe

challenge Saturday

24.8 million Darrels a day in the first quarter of 1981.

The producing nations have been able to widen their taps without sending prices tumbling because of stronger-than-expected demand among consumng nations an d accidents in producing regions, which has reduced supply from those areas.

Indeed, prices have soured m recent weeks above the group's target of \$18 a barrel. The average price for a basket of seven crudes monitored by OPEC reached \$20.46 a barrel last week. West Texas Latermediate, the

benchmark American croue, has been running in tithe range of \$21 to \$23 a barrel, sulthough it has come down some in recent days. Nick Antill, an analyst at County Natwest in London, predicted lower price s ahead because

of warmer weather in the United

ministers and the Alrab League

secretariat as well as; the Council

of Arab Economic Unity to help

chart a pan-Arab st nategy vis-a-

vis developments in is ir transport

lines in Saudi Aratiia, Egypt,

Lebanon, Libya, 1 he Umited

Arab Emirates, Iraqi, Morecco, North Yemen and Sigria are ex-

pected to take part in the one-day

The meeting come as close on

the heels of anoth ier AACO

meeting which was he ald in Dubai

with the participation . of the nine

Jordanian (RJ), the national

the plan and to negoti ate: with a

specialised computer or ampany to

The World Bank last ye car held

up seven new loans wos th \$780

million. China normally | receives

about \$2 billion a year is 1 credit from the World Bank, m. aking it

the bank's second largest 1 torrow-

World Bank President Barber Conable has indicated that t loans

The United States alrea dy has

begun to case political and e cono-

mic sanctions and Japan al so has

said it hopes to impleme ut on

schedule in April an 810 t villion

yen (\$5.7 billion) loan par krage for China's 1991-95 econ ornic

Hong also announced that Paul Volcker, former U.S. Fee le rai

Reserve chairman, and Inte 2122-

tional Monetary Fund De puty Managing Director Richard Erb will attend a central banking a xan-

ference in Beijing next weel c.

yen (for 100)

to China will resume soo a.

er after India.

implement the project.

Arab airlines as we I as Royal

Representatives of 1 national air-

policies in Europe.

Jordanian airline.

meeting.

States and excess supply of The energy agency report esti-mated demand for the group's oil

The energy agency report esti mated that Saudi Arabia produced 5.6 million barrels a day in would run a little more than 21 December. Its output quota was about five million barrels a day in million barrels a day in the first Private analysts expect OPEC to reduce production in January

the last quarter of the year. Saudi Arabia's oil minister Hisham Nazer, was quoted re-cently by OPECNA News Agency as saying the country was producing 5.4 million barrels a day, right at its limit for the first half of the year.

The report estimated Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates produced at about double their motas in December.

The production agreement arranged for the January-June period set Kuwait's quota at 1.5 million barrels a day, sharply up from 1.1 million barrels late last year. Kuwait got a bigger share of OPEC's production pie in an effort to curb its overproduction. The United Arab Emirates' that, the kingdom would have to quota remained the same.

Jordan government seals Sudan accord

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers has endorsed a trade protocol with Sudan for the current year 1990 totalling \$70 million and providing for facilities for the exchange of good between Jordan

and the Arab African country.

The \$70 million pro tocol allocates \$6 million for the operations of the Sudanese and Jorganian trade centres in Amman and Khartoum and \$4 million for trade fairs which each country will organise in the other during the year while the rest will be equally shared in trade

The protocol provides for a 50 per cent reduction of customs duty on all goods imported from any country from the other, and states that Sudan will import all its needs of cement from Jordan.

The protocol urged both sides to launch a direct maritime transportation route bety seen their respective ports to help transport goods between them and agreed to encourage economic, technological and scientific institutions in Sudan and Jordan to launch close cooperation aimed at serving the socio economic sectors in both

Comecon shifts focus

SOFIA (R) — The Soviet-led trading bloc Comecon agreed Wednesday to move towards a market-based system to replace four decades of rigid central planning and barter trade, delegates

AACO Secretary-G leneral Adli After a two-day session, pri me Dajani said after the 1 mai session ministers of the 10 Comecon Tuesday that a play a to unify states decided to shift gradually reservations with Ar ab airlines towards trade based on covertible: was discussed, and the particicurrency and world market pri-ces, they said. pants set up a five me mber com-

> draft changes to the Comecoin statutes will make proposals next month and meet in Prague in mid-March to discuss them, Czechoslovak officials said.

Comecon, which comprises the seven Warsaw Pact nations plus Cuba, Mongolia and Vietnam. has until now decreed who exports what to whom and at what price. Its accounting has been done in "transferable roubles" which have no value outside the

Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minis-ter Georgi Pirinski told reporters the step-by-step move towards hard currency and world prices, first proposed last month by

HE'S SO QUIET ...

HE MUST HAVE

A LOT ON HIS

MIND.

Ryzhkov, would get under way in

The transition has to be gradual to take into account balance of payments shifts and other negative aspects... we are looking for a soft landing and not a hard .landing," he said.

Ryzhkov told Sovier and Bulgarian journalists that Moscow had proposed a three-year transition period, but Czechosloreporters present said.

It was not clear whether any

compromise had been reached. The Comecon council meeting was the first since a tide of

changes swept through Eastern Europe late last year, loosening the communist grid on power in the area and opening the way for Western-style democracy and economics. "The political situation has

changed sharply and there is lwoad unanimity among the European members that we have the move towards a market-type integration," Comecon executive committee chairman Andrei Lukanov of Bulgaria said.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

(Answers ton torrow)



LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

1086.4 391.5

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, January 10, 1989

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday. 1.6610/20

One Sterling One U.S. dollar

1.1590/1600 1.8885/95 1.5133/43 35.10/14 5.6980/7030 1251/1252 145.20/30 6.1150/1200 6.4825/75

6.4900/50

One ownce of gold 405.90/406.40

U.S. dollars Canadian dollar Deutschemarks Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

TRENGY IN ORDER TO Please his wife, he reluctantly askeed TO GO THERE. HOKOUN Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon. Jumbles: BAKED CANAL PODRAM NOGGIN Answer: What the job of delivering percels sometimes is—A BANG-UP ONE

Iranian parliament approves five-year economic schemes

NICOSIA (R) - Iran's parliament Tuesday approved a fiveyear development plan which is the centrepiece of President Ali Akbar Hashemi Raftanjani's programme to rebuild the economy after a decade of war and revolutionary change.

CBJ clears ambiguity on currency businesses

AMMAN (J.T.) — Keys to some offices, which used to operate private exchange houses in Jor-dan, have now been returned to their owners who have settled their obligations and honoured their commitments, according to an announcement Wednesday by the Central Bank of Jordan

The announcement said that the owners of the exchange houses have voluntarily li quidated their businesses with the approval of the Ministry of Industry and Trade so that they can reopen under new names and for different businesses other than money changing.

The announcement said should the owners resume money changing businesses from their offices under assumed names, they would be committing a violation of the law and breaching the CBJ orders to close down the

money changing offices.

The government on Feb. 1989 revoked the licences of all non-bank exchange firms and closed down their offices after seizing their books and records in a move against violations of regplations and to put an end to their tampering with the national economy.

Nonetheless, the money changers have been demanding a solution to address their situation after the new government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran had decided to abrogate the mar-tial law under which the closure order had been taken.

In a memorandum submitted to the Lower House of Parliament last month, the moneychangers called on parliament to review the closure and the legality of the order issued by the government of Prime Minister Zeid Rifai. The order froze the assets of most moneychangers pend investigations and auditing.

The CBJ announcement Wednesday seemed to have been prompted by reports in the local press that some former moneychangers have resumed incognito operations in the down-town areas of Amman.

Wednesday's announcement noted that the CBJ was watching the situation closely in cooperation with the concerned authorities and businesses trading with foreign exchange.

It said that the CBJ was in the process of preparing a draft law designed to organise the moneychanging business in the Kingdom.

Should the government approve of the law, the amnouncement said, the CBJ would issue new licences to certain moneychanging establish-ments which had abided by laws and regulations.

of up to \$27 billion of foreign credit, was approved after a reported. It must be ratified by the overseeing Guardian Council before becoming law.

The plan, as presented to parliament, aims for an ambitious average annual growth rate of eight per cent fuelled by \$83 billion of oil and gas revenue over the next five years.

Investments would total 27.6 trillion rivals (\$394 billion at the official exchange rate) and unem-ployment would be cut to 14 per cent by creation of nearly two million new jobs. The budget deficit, which was

51 per cent in the year to March 20, would all but disappear by 1994 and inflation, officially set at 28.5 per cent last year, would fall to 8.9 per cent.

Defence expenditures would account for \$9.5 billion of the total foreign exchange outlays of \$119 billion over the next five country must strengthen its defences while peace talks which began after the 1980-88 war with

Iraq remained headlocked.

The plan was originally drafted when Mir-Hossein Mousavi, an advocate of government control of the economy, was prime minister. But it was amended by Rafsanjani's cabinet and again slightly changed in parliament.

The head of the parliament's plan and budget committee, Morteza Alviri, said in an interview published last month that the plan had opponents on both ends of the political spectrum.

Traditionalists objected to birth control plans to reduce the 3.2 per cent annual population growth rate, he said, while hardiners said the blueprint opened doors to foreign credits and paved the way for a few to get

Iran's late supreme leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, ruled against direct borrowing from abroad, but senior officials foreign credit.

Alviri told Tehran radio last week that article 29 of the plan allowed the government to use

following foreign credits:

— \$9 billion through project financing to build major agri-cultural; industrial and mining projects. Credit will be repaid over five years after they begin

production. \$3 billion of foreign investment to build four dams which would irrigate 300 000 hectares of farmland and produce 5,000 megawatts of electricity.

Oil ministry to use \$3.2 billion of foreign credits to develop a joint gas field with Qatar in the Gulf and \$2.2 billion for petrochemical projects.

- \$10 billion tied to buyback schemes to increase utilisation of industries now running at 30 per cent of capacity. Factories would use the credit to obtain primary materials and pay it back by export of their products.

Soviet economic adviser seeks U.S. investments, predicts energy crisis

LOS ANGELES, California (AP) — An energy crisis may follow dire shortages of consumer goods in the Soviet Union this bitter winter, a top Soviet economist says.

"My assessment is that situation is very difficult," said Vladimir Kvint, a deputy to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's chief adviser and a special consultant to Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov.

Monday, Kvint wound up a visit to New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, consulting with U.S. companies interested in joint ventures in the Soviet

"I think that because of wrong decisions, the shortage of soap and washing powder can be followed by a shortage of energy — an energy crisis," Kvint said in an interview with the Associated

"Production of oil was reduced last year by 2.6 per cent, and the tempo of growth in production of gas slowed sharply," he said. "I think that we are going to have a very difficult winter." Kvint said that despite the

Soviet bureaucratic morass and

lack of convertibility of the ronble, both the United States and the Soviet Union appear ready to cure their "abnormal" lack of trade and business ventures. "It seems to me that public opinion has gathered the neces-

sary critical mass," said Kvint, a proponent of and expert on freetrade zones like the one being established in Nakhodka.

Nakhodka is in the lightly populated, resource-rich Soviet far east, a region that is developmg rapidly and, Kvint says, should be a ripe target for businesses trading in the Pacific

He said he believes a switch to convertible rouble can begin if Soviet demand for consumer goods can be appeased over the next three to six years, and that limited conversions should begin immediately among joint venture partners in the free economic

Kvint, a vice chairman of the Economic Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, said the atmosphere has improved considerably even since his last visit to the United States, in May when he lectured at Harvard Uni-

"From my last visit until now, there is much more interest," Kyint said in an interview at the Los Angeles offices of the law. firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom. Many companies that were just interested in May signed letters of intent or are

Turks foresee lira tumbling 🛵 against dollar this year

ANKARA (R) — The Turkish hira is likely to tumble by about 25 per cent against the dollar in 1990 following a similar decline last year, Turkish bankers said

Wednesday. They expected an end-1990 rate of between 2,950 and 3,200

lira to the dollar, compared with 2,304 at end-1989 and 1,815 at the start of last year. The rate Wednesday was 2,315. "We expect a drop of about (25

per cent) this year provided there are no undesirable developments on the political or economic fronts, such as a foreign trade or investment bottleneck," a treasure at an Istanbul-based bank

A state-run bank official said last year's lira decline of 21.2 per cent, relatively small after a 43.9

per cent fall in 1988, did not occur under free market conditions. "I think it was administered by the central bank due to inflation-ary concerns," he said.

The government last year freed bank deposit rates to halt a run ou . the lira and thus keep inflation down. A government economist said he expected Ankara would pursue similar policies this year.

There is no sign of an increase in exports. But if such a rise occurs

the lira depreciation could (move closer to) the inflation rate," the bank official said.

The State Planning Organisa-tion has forecast 54 per cent inflation this year after 68.8 per cent in 1989 and 75.2 per cent in

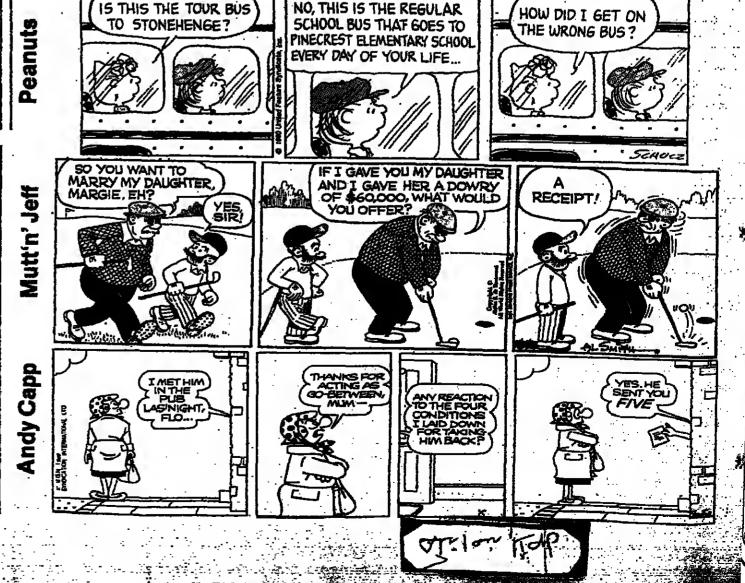
"The government is (keen to) lower inflation. They will probably pull it below 60 per cent in 1990," Ekrem Onal, head of Faisal Finance House in Istanbul, told

The lira rate is changed daily in central bank-managed sessions in which other banks give their bid/ offer quotes for the dollar and the Deutschemark. Most banks use a dollar/mark basket to compute quotes.

The central bank can force banks to change rates through frequent buying or selling during the sessions, bankers said.

They expected the lira's drop against the mark this year to be similar to 1989's 25.3 per cent drop. The mark opened 1990 at 1,354 lira after 1,022 in January 1989 and 644 a year earlier.

CE



A STATE OF THE STA

McEnroe preparing for Australian Open

ADELAIDE, Australia (R) — have been, but it's always been a John McEnroe, who once vowed difficult tournament for me." never to play again in Australia, is making a big effort to propert for next week's Australian Open despits dismissing it as less inportant than the other grand slace

The former entant terrible of the tennis circuit commented on the first grand stars of the 1990s. as he bogan his proparations at the four-day Rio international challenge in Adelaide.

"I tried to get down here at early as I could to give myself the best chance," the American said. "I feet like I'm as prepared as I

BY CHARLES GORES

Q.1—Both valaerable, as South you

hold:

• QF1883 . VAESE . OA186 • E
Partner opens the hidding with one
diamond. What do you respond?

A.—You are going to play in game at least, but you need time to locate

your best spot. Start off by respond-

ing one space. A jump skill peeds either a better suit or a powerful fit

O.2-Both vulnerable, as South you

COLUMN CARSE CARSE OF

A.—It's time to show your strength.
A jump shift to those bearts fits the
bill nicely—second sale

bill nicely—second suit, strong hand, forcing to game.

Q.3 Both valuerable, as South you

+QJM3 PARS4 OAINE +K

The bidding has proceeded: North East - South West

1 O Pass 1 & Pass 1 NT Pass 3 V Pass 3 NT Pass 7

A.—Although partner has shown no great liking for either of your suits and there rought be some duplication of values in clube, you are

still good enough for one more

move. The logical choice is four dis-

monds, bidding out your hand pat-tern. If partner has a five-card

diamond suit, six diamonds could be on because his chib losers can be

THE Daily Crossword by Barries Gordon

peppera UN gp. Bosisce over water Sendbenk

ruffed in your short-trump hand.

20 Cut cani 21 Plus 23 impreser Handt

24 Arab part 25 Verified . 30 Gate by 31 Fall 32 Kind of

into 39 Serves 40 Nactors 1 Help 2 to Snitch

What action do you take?

The bidding has proceeded: North East South West

Pass 1 #

for parmer's minor.

Pass

What do you bid now?

GOREN BRIDGE

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BREDGE OUIZ

n invest which a area of a 5,000 t

to serior tedins to the tedins

es an

Care F

300 TC

shoot a

of the

ces, s

aprovi e his k

ates, E

isit mi

ore me

s of te

Arps, I.
"Man:
st inter:
of inter:

hangelt ged sa give it: : dollar:

ost bank

rates to selling in the init has yes 25.3 F 19. 122 in the init has yes 25. 122

ar ca

Last year, he won a rock star's welcome when he returned to the Anstralian Open for the first time since December 1985, when he had vowed never to play there again after clashes with the media and a shock defeat to Yagoslav Slobodan Zivojinovic.

McEaroe never hid his hatred of the cramped old Kooyong courts in Melbourne - the scene of his 1985 debacle -- which he once described as "the worst grass court I have ever played

He was so incensed by the

Q.4-As South, valuerable, you

9872 VAS 0 18652 +742 Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What action do you take?

A.—You have just enough for pame if your range is 22-24 points. [If it is may louse, pass with alacrity.] Because of your raffing value, however, you should probe for the possibility of a 4-4 spade fit. Use the Stayman Convention—bid three

Q.5-Neither vulnerable, as South

you hold: PAJES VAS 0398 +AJS4

A.—You have a problem. You can't bid either black soit, three dismands is an underbid and four dismands

suit and bypasses three no trump. That leaves only a cue-bid, which is

simply a one-round force in the modern style. Bid two hearts.

Q.6-Both vulnerable, as South you

#Q67 - VTS OAJ98 #A2963

The hidding has proceeded: North Emt South West 1 0 2 0 7

What action do you take?

A .- If you me basic methods,

ble for penalties. That should pro-

duce at least a two-trick act and you

can't be sore you have game. If you

play negative doubles, you must pass, of course, and hope partner reopens with a double.

ALLE FRANKE HERRI BERRE BERRE ENG. BERR BERRE COERT ABOD BAPER COERT ABOD BAPER BOOD GOERT BOOD BERRE BERRE

Tel: 625155

erstates your holding is permer's

The bidding has proceeded: West North East St 1 7 2 0 Pass ? What do you bid now?

"skating rink" conditions that he won a 21-day suspension for one two-word outburst in 1985.

The move to Flinders Park changed all that and this year, despite insisting that the open was "not as important as the other big tournaments," McEnroe said he was making a big effort to acclimatise to the Australian

He guided the United States to the Hopman Cop final in Perth last week, only to lose to Spain, and has been travelling with wife Tatum O'Neal and young sons Kevin and Sean.

The world number four, who reached the quarter-finals last year and the semifinals on grass at Kooyong in 1983 - his best performance at the open -- said: Il conditions at Flinders park are reasonable, my chances are

"It's tough, if you go out there and it's 140 degrees (Fahrenbeit, 60 centigrade) on the court, any-

thing could happen."
But he added: "I couldn't play six or seven straight matches at the top of my game if it's hot."
McEnroe said the open could boil down to the survival of the fittest, favouring world number one Ivan Lendi.

"It's sort of like a crap shoot (dice game). There's not that many guys that are at their best form-wise, but some guys could be very fit at this time... A guy like Lendl, he gets down here early and he's very fit," McEnroe

Fitness fanatic Lendl, holder of the Australian crown, is playing in the New South Wales Open where he had an easy first round win over Andrew Sznajder of Canada 6-1, 6-3 on Wednesday.

now become a very good friend. A time to build up your assets, slowly

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Accept the invitation of a younger friend in the same situa-tion as yourself. Your family has

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to

December 21) Add beauty and

colour at your residence for more

harmony. You need to be very

selective in which friends you see

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to

January 20) Your unusual ideas

could be just great for you now. Little courtesies will now most

impress your attachment that are

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to Febru-

ary 19) Many friends will now vic

Invite anyone in your home who is

able to aid you in business plans.

PISCES: (February 20 to March

20) There will be much vitality in

your emotional relationship now.
A non-combative and gentle atti-

tude is suggested at home now.

Today's child; If your child were

born today he or she will be very magnetic, attracting both the right

This progeny will need some gui-

dance and assistance where discri-

mination and evaluation is re-

quired. A decided ability for busi-pess and finance is indicated.

the wrong types of friends.

entertain you in your space time.

with you with money.

HOROSCOPE

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JANUARY 11, 1996

but forely.

at this time.

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a good day to reduce the ideas of the recent past into practical reality, especially where snything to do with career and personal finance is

ARRES: (March 2t to April 19) Try to put your own special gift at work in gaining more financial success. Get your home organised on a more well rounded basis.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A good friend will help you with an operous obligation. Take your attachment to see a relative who is younger that has not been seen lately.

GEMONI: (May 21 to June 21) Charm your family now by giving them some thoughtful presents. A woman will aid you in putting your points across with your loved one. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't let some tension keep you from seeing and enjoying a friend you like. Rely on a woman to handle tension with your mate.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You and your attachment should be more open to seeing more individuals. You need to look at the larger aspects of your business opportunities now.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) If you have been planning a home edition, start it now. A family member will now get along very well with your attachment. LEBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A highly influential person can

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JANUARY 12, 1990

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An innate restlessness besets most everyone throughout the day into early evening. Unwise, sudden and dramatic changes, that are not beneficial occur at the drop of a

ARRES: (March 21 to April 19) A comple from a distance will have excellent advise for your future. You can make money through now taking a business risk.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Rendering something special to your attachment brings much happiness. Fixing up your home can be essily accomplished now. GEMUNE: (May 21 to June 21) Be off with close friends to see interesting companions nearby. Take your attachment today to interest-ing group activities that you both enjoy.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You will be tempted to spend more money than is sensi-ble. Don't invite an interesting group into your home at this time. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be off and about to interesting activities with your attachment. Discussing practical matters with friends can be very helpful now.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Restlessness at home requires that you and your family get out of the house. If you are going to do business now a large firm is best. LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Seeing too much of one friend can cause you unnecessary problems. Do nothing now that would cause business persons to think you are chean.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Have a frank talk with your family about your ambitious. now would keep worthwhile

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Do everything possible to get your attachment to go on a trip with you. Now would be a good time to join an organisation with friends you like.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get all possible busi-ness data that you require from experts. A time when you need to keep your temper under control when with your friends.

ACUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A very good day for you to invite and entertain charmers in your home. You will have considerable activity with good

PISCES: (Pebruary 20 to March 20) Accepting more responsibili-ties in business will bring you more income. Invite younger persons into your home for a pleasant time.

Today's child: If your child were born today be or she will be witty and have a good sense of humour that will appeal to those individuals who can appreciate his or her special qualities, while others around them may fail to under-stand or approve of them, and in some ways be truly confused by

LEARN TO FLY

Honeymoon city of the world — Niegara Falls, Ontario, Canada. For private, commercial licence multi-engine-instrument rating. All advance flying and ground school. For training cost and visa information. Please write:

FAX (416) 687-6678

Phone (416) 682-9224 CONQUEST AIR LTD. P.O. Box: 536 Niagara Falls Ontario, Canada, L2 E - 6 V2

New South Wales Open:

Mayotte, Shriver fall, Lendl, Becker advance

SYDNEY (R) — Americans Tim was besten by France's Isabelle Mayotte and Pam Shriver were Demongeot while the seeded the big name casualties as the sun finally shone on the rain-soaked New South Wales Open tennis tournament on Wednesday.

Mayotte, seeded fourth in the men's singles, crashed out in straight sets to 18-year-old American qualifier Pete Sampras while womeo's fifth seed Shriver was beaten 6-3, 6-7, 7-5 by Czechoslovakia's Jana Posoisilova.

Sixth seed Andres Gomez of Equador also fell by the wayside, beaten 7-5, 6-4 by another American qualifier, David Wheaton.

Top two seeds Ivan Lendl and Boris Becker had no such probiems as they cruised confidently into the second round with straight sets win over Canadian Andrew Sznajder and Alexander Volkov of the Soviet Union.

In the women's singles, Canada's Helen Kelesi, the third seed,

Demongeot while the seeded Americans Patty Fendick and Ros Fairbank and the Soviet Union's Larisa Savchenko also made early exits.

Mayotte's defeat was his second to Sampras who, after his shock win over Sweden's Mats Wilander at last year's U.S. Open, is emerging as one of the United States' bright young

"I don't knew if he's psyched out by me but it seems as though he doesn't play as well as he's capable against me," said an elated Sampras later.

Lendl, who now meets Yugoslavia's Goran Ivanisevic in the second round, did not relish the overcast, breezy conditions early in the day but still served 11 aces to overcome his former doubles

partner Sznajder. Becker was happier with his

performance against Volkov and said he was confident of producing a better performance at next week's Australian Open than he produced last year when he was beaten in the fourth round by

Sweden's Jonas Svenssoo. "I played better today than I did io last year's Australian Open," he said. "Last year I took too much time off between the Davis Cup final and the Australian Open but I came over earlier

this year because I didn't want to make the same mistake again."

The Wimbledoo and U.S. Open champioo also dismissed reports which quoted West Ger-many's David Cup captain Nikki Pilic as saying the 22-year-old Becker would retire from tennis in two year's time in search of a new, more intellectual challenge. "It's news to me. I have no idea what he had in the back of his mind," said Becker.

Centre court area in Wimbledon to be eliminated

VILLA FOR RENT

Located in Dahlat Al Rashid. Consists of 3 bedrooms,

3 bathrooms, L-shaped salon and living room, with central

For more information please call: 665396.

heating. Area: 220 square metres with a garden.

LONDON (AP) - A 68-year tradition at the world's oldest grand slam tennis tournament ends this summer when all standing room at Wimbledoo's ceotre court is scrapped to meet new shfety staodards, officials announced Tuesday.

"It's very, very sad," Sue Youngman, spokeswoman for the All England Club, said Tuesday. The centre court was built in 1922 and has had standing room ever since. The place won't quite be the same without it."

New government regulations require any covered stand at a British sports ground accom-modating more than 500 people to hold a safety certificate.

The centre court at Wimbledon holds 14,502 fans, including 2,000 standing places. Youngman said local authorities refused to grant the championships a safety certificate unless it replaced standing areas on its main show court with

"We will be building seats but there woo't be anywhere near 2,000," Youngman told the 'Associated Press. "It will hit hard many people who have traditionally queued up to get into

But a spokesman for Merton Borough Council, which covers the Wimbledon district, said it

was the All England Club's own decision to make ceotre court an all-seater arena.

"They elected to remove the seating," said Robin Pryke, chief surveyor at the council's building cootrol department. "All we asked was for them to reduce the oumber of standing places and make the standing area conform to the act.

"We didn't specify a number and one got the impression they were actually looking for more seats. Maybe it's cheaper for them than to make the necessary construction work to keep it a standing area."

lo a statement, the All England Club said Wimbledon's centre court will oow become an advance ticket only arena. Only 'with great regret" would existing standing room be replaced with seating before this year's event starting June 25.

The committee (of management) is extremely disappointed that the longstanding tradition of standing room areas on centre court must now come to an end," the statement said.

The new legislation, which falls under the fire and safety at places of sport act, was prompted by the 1985 Bradford fire disaster when 53 fans died after a wooden stand was engulfed in flames at an

English soccer game.

The law was tightened following the Hillsborough Stadium tragedy in Sheffield in April 1989, when 95 English soccer spectators were crushed to death in an overcrowded stand.

Youngman said officials at the All England Club tried hard to persuade Mertoo Borough Conncil that tennis attracts a different type of crowd than soccer.
"If the club could have done anything to retain standing room,

it would have done " she told the AP. "But the council looked at every aspect of safety within the grounds and made certain conditions for the tournament going

Sbe said the authority had drawn up "a buge list of requirements.

"Taking away standing room was one of these conditions. There are others which we will announce later," she said. "A lot of things will change. The club has to make a number of amendments in safety procedures."

MANY VILLAS AND APARTMENTS FOR RENT & SALE Furnished or Unfurnished

In Shmeisani, Sweifieh Abdoun and many other locations.

For more information please call Wael Real Estate Tel: 685342, 682097

FURNISHED HOUSE TO LET

Three bedrooms, two salons, two glassed verandas and a spacious kitchen. Telephone is installed. Located just behind American Embassy Stores at the Seventh Circle.

if interested please call 817038

Reasonably Priced Villa For Rent Nicely located in a quiet residential area, with nice view. Completely

independent, fully furnished: American & European furniture, garden, garage, C.H., telephone, TV, video. Electrolux appliances, 3 bedrooms, living-dining room, salon, maid froom in basement.

Cali 845272, Thursday & Friday 12:00-5:00 p.m.

FURNISHED SEMI VILLA FOR RENT

Located at the Seventh Circle area, consisting of one master bedroom, three bedrooms, three bathrooms, two kitchens, fully equipped, big salon, dining room, deluxe furnished, bar, gar-

For more more informations please contact: Tel. 684945 & 684947, Amman

den, garage, and telephone.

REQUIRED AN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

A regional organisation, based in Amman, requires an executive secretary. Experience is necessary, five years with a reputable firm. Age below 35.

Languages: Fluent in Arabic, English and preferably French. Good salary with fringe benefits.

Applications with C.V. and a recent photo to be addressed to:

P.O. Box 930039 Amman

Deadline: 10 days from today.

CAR FOR SALE

White MERCEDES-BENZ 300 SEL 1988 model. Fully optioned.

For inquiry please call 821613

Construction companies are invited to participate to submit offers for the project of works to re-structure the new premises of the Chancery of the Spanish Embassy.

ANNOUNCEMENT

For further details, please contact the Embassy at telephone number 655889 during working hours (from 8.00 a.m. till 2.00 p.m. except Fridays and Sundays).

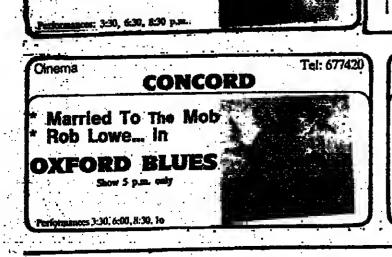
WANTED **PROFESSIONAL TRANSLATOR**

Arabic to English: Must have excellent knowledge of Arabic, ability to translate into fluent idiomatic English. University education, good working knowledge of current world affairs, ability to work under pressure with precision and speed, and to work day and evening shifts on a regular basis, including weekends. Premium placed on accuracy, judgement, dedication, diligence, reliability.

Good package of compensation offered. Send typed or printed C.V. and a recent picture

Personnel Office P.O. Box 354, Amman

N.B.: Recent applicants need not re-apply.



RAINBOW

LICENCE

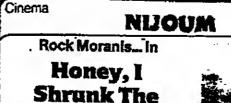
TO KILL

Tel: 634144 Cinema PHILADELPHIA

SEEMS LIKE OLD TIMES



Performance, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, IU:30 p.m.



Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30, Pridays and Sendays extra shows at 11:86 a.m.

Kids



Tel: 675571

Tel: 674111 PLAZA

SUMMER SCHOOL

Performances 3:30, 6 00, 8:30, 10:30.

Moscow shows readiness to accept Lithuanian reform

VILNIUS, Soviet Union (R) --- Moscow showed signs of increasing readiness Wednesday to accept a formal break by its Lithuanian Communist comrades and even to exploit the seeming rebuff in its perestroika reform drive.

In a report on the domestic service of Moscow Radio, a correspondent in the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius, told Soviet listeners an opinion poll showed overwhelming support for last month's move by the Lithuanians to establish a separate Commun-

It said 82 per cent of those polled, across a broad cross-section of Lithoanians, approved of

And it said Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's own popularity has increased of late, while that of the independence mass movement Sajudis has fallen.

The radio's morning news bulletin made clear the reform effort would get a boost from Gorbachev's fact-finding mission to the once-independent republic, set to begin Thursday. "It would not have been neces-

have taken this decision if changes in the Soviet party had been going more quickly. We all know they are going very slow-" said the report. The newscast follows concillia-

sary for the Lithuanian party to

tory remarks by Soviet party ideology chief Vadim Medvedev, who Tuesday suggested the Communist Party as a whole could benefit from greater decentralisa-

Medvedev, leading a 40-mem-ber delegation ahead of Gorbachev's visit, said a party ple-num in Moscow late this month would press for greater freedom for local party organisations.
"The platform must propose a

number of radical transformation in the party. It must raise substantially the independence of the Communist Party in the republics, of party organisations and of the role of each party member," he said in remarks carried by the Soviet News Agency TASS.

Medvedev, clearly on hand to sound out local workers and Officials and not to give ultimatums, also stoutly defended the party as the leading light of perestroika.

His words were the clearest sign yet that Moscow's party brass hoped to turn the rebuff from their Lithuanian comrades to tactical advantage in a drive to rid local parties of hardline elements holding back social and economic change.

The Kremlin's softer line, a far

cry from earlier warnings that the Lithuanian move could lead to the disintegration of the Soviet party, is expected to face a severe test during the Soviet leader's Saiudis has announced plans to

press for "freedom and independ-At the same time, Moscow is under pressure from the country's volatile southern region, which ethnic rivahies and religious pas-sions threaten to set aflame.

hold rallies during the visit to

Armenian party activists Tues-day walked out of their offices in the capital, Nagorno-Karabakh, rather than meet the Azerbaijani Communist Party chief, leaving a high-level delegation alone at the

This public snub of a fellow Communist illustrates the tension between the rival ethnic groups that has erupted in clashes that have caused more than 120

Gun battles and assaults by rival groups are a regular feature of life in the disputed territory, administered as part of Azerbaijan but populated mostly by

In the Azerbaijani region of Nakhichevan on the Iranian border, a week of rioting by Shi'ite Muslim Azeris seeking closer ties with their Iranian counterparts has damaged border installations and forced officials to promise easier travel.

The Iranian News Agency (IRNA) said a delegation from Tehran met Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze Tuesday to discuss freer movement across their common border.

in freeing Mandela — Sisulu JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Black nationalist Walter Sisulu Wednesday put more pressure on South Africa to free African

ly ANC activists last October in

an apparent dry run for Mande-

But he indicated that he was

"I am committed not to enter

into negotiations until a proper

willing to have "talks about

la's release.

talks" with Pretoria.

Pretoria has nothing to lose

day it was only a matter of time before Mandela's release would be announced. National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela, saying Pretoria Citizen newspaper said in an editorial there was no longer any

had nothing to gain by keeping him behind bars. Sisulu said it was time for ing up and will grow in intensity Mandela to take his place as a key by the time the government frees him, probably after the opening of parliament on Feb. 2," the newspapers said. figure in negotiating a peaceful settlement to South Africa's political stalemate.

"The situation in South Africa "But why wait? Why let emois such that it does not depend on tions reach a massive climax? The Mr. Mandela being in jail... there government should anticipate this is no advantage to us, to Nelson build-up by freeing him now," it Mandela or to the government to added. have him in prison," he said on a Sisulu said the government had not approached him about setting up talks on ending apartheid since it freed him and other elder-

radio phone-in programme. Sisulu, jailed with Mandela in 1964 for plotting to overthrow white minority rule, rejected speculation that Mandela's release would ease international pressure on South Africa to give blacks a say in national government.

"As long as anartheid does not change, the world has the right to point the finger at South Africa,"

climate (for talks) has been cre-Speculation has reached fever pitch that President F.W. De ated... If there are problems ab-Klerk will free Mandela within out the climate, then I will speak weeks, meeting a condition of the outlawed ANC for talks on ento anyone about that," he said. ding apartheid.

The ANC "was always pre-pared for adjustment... "Sisulu said. "Negotiation does imply give and take." South African state radio, in a daily commentary which reflects

ruling National Party were being forced to the negotiating table by international pressure and And the pro-government

mounting support for the ANC.
"The National Party is no loner a free agent to do what it likes. It has to react to the situapurpose in keeping him in jail.
"Excitement is already buildtion as a whole," he said.

He denied that the ANC was being forced to he more pragmatic with Pretoria since the collapse of Communist governments in Eastern Europe, where the guerrilla movement traditionallygained most of its political and economic support.

"We have been affected to a very little extent. There is no change to our policies," he said. Government-run radio said Wednesday the release of Mandela was "only a matter of time." the strongest signal yet that his freedom is imminent.

The editorial by the South Africa Broadcasting Corp. also said Mandela can play a central role in opening black-white political dialogue.

"It has been clear for some months that it is only a matter of time before Mr. Mandela's release is announced," the broadcast said. "Moreover, by identifying himself with the ideals of peaceful development he has re-defined his position."

COLUMN

Unaddressed letter delivered to family

GREAT BADDOW, England (AP) — A letter from Norway to, Britain with only the family name on the envelope was correctly delivered in an English village six days later, the recipient said Tuesday. "We are just full of admiration for the post office but we can't imagine how they man-aged it," said Marit Torkildsen of Great Baddow near Chelmsford, Essex, 48 kilometres east of London. She said an elderly friend wrote "family Torkildsen" on the envelope and posted it on Dec. 14 from Rjukan in the Telemark district of southern Norway. It was delivered on Dec. 20, but the story has only just emerged in the local Essex Chronicle weekly. Mrs. Torkildsen's husband, Tore, said: "Maybe the post office in Rjukan saw our friend buy the stamp or post the letter and knew it was for Britain so they put it in the British bag. And maybe some sorter in London knew the Torkildsens lived in Essex so he put it in Essex bag. The whole thing is a mystery to us." The post office headquarters in London said it knew nothing of the feat.

of Person

Ai-Asc

10 (Project

1: 23:402

S-515 W

5 Taris.

95 A 5 S.

E. F.O Chi

TE : T. C.

THE TE

E ES

15 22 15

1

100

121 Se

#E: E35 P

200

د سور د سور

100 Y

22:21:

35 CC (C

zzdin

sign to At

Sei Mad

1

Metari :

EX MICE

ME ESS

deres u

100% AC

kess pro

270 7.1

The pr

DETC C

CHE'S

Set Ever v

Some Lay

SIER, CD

of test of a pe estat

- Telati

a incration

Se Mao reti

a chaday

ha hadeny

Service toi lendin plan clied. At the

an (1980) 2007

METS IN PASS

AND BONS OF

4 = mm

der gent

Bandit gambles away helst

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The son of a former Delaware prosecutor gambled away 651.000 stolen in a philadelphia armoured car heist and now wants to sur-render, according to published re-ports. "I stole-the money because thought I could quadruple it through gambling, and then I would give half to the company I stole it from," said a letter sup-posedly written by Edward Leigh Hunt Jr., a federal fugitive. Hunt was a guard on the armoured truck that was robbed in January: 1988. "I used my gambling:system, but I lost it all," said the letter, postmarked in suburban Inglewood and sent to the News Journal newspaper in Wilming-ton, Delaware. "We're still looking for him," an FBI official in Los Angeles said, according to the Los Angeles Times Tuesday: The letter states that Hunt wishes to surrender to authorities arthe Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce on Jan. 20 the second anniversary of the robbery. Enclosed was a photograph showing a picture of a shaggy-haired Hunt emerging from a swimming poolreceral agents who have been looking for Hunt since the 1988 robbery say they're pretty sure

the letter is legitimate. Pilot flies plane .

under Eiffel Tower

PARIS (AP) — A masked man flew an ultra-light plane around the lighted landmarks of Paris, then under the Eiffel Tower before landing and escaping, police said Monday. Police officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said two officers spotted the plane flying low near the Arc de Triomphe and other monuments late Sunday night. Any Unauthorised flights over Paris are illegal. The French news agence France-Press reported receiving a telephone call from a man claiming to have made the flight, who said he "wanted a unique sensation of Paris at night, seen from above, s sensation of freedom." The agency said the man, who refused to identify himself, said he did not plan to repeat his feat, or to take over the role of a mystery man known in the French press as the Black Baron. For several months in 1988, a pilot evaded police while making repeated night flights over the French capital in s small plane. Eventually, Albert Maltret was fined 50,000 francs (\$8,300) and had his pilot's hicense suspended for a low pass over the Champs-Elysees on Oct. 13, 1988, the Maltret denied he

Global weather

(major world cities)

had made the other flights.

- MINIL MAX AMSTERDAM ... 05 41 07 45 Cloudy
ATHENS.... 00 32 11 52 Cloudy
ATHENS.... 15 59 19 65 Cloudy
BAHRAIN ... 15 50 19 65 Cloudy
BAHRAIN ... 15 50 19 65 Cloudy
CHICAGO ... 12 25 06 47 Cloudy
CHICAGO ... 12 25 06 47 Cloudy
CHICAGO ... 12 25 06 47 Cloudy
CHICAGO ... 17 32 21 70 Cloudy
CHICAGO ... 17 52 Cloudy
MADRID ... 01 34 12 54 Cloudy
MONTREAL ... 01 30 03 37 Cloudy
MONTREAL ... 0 *C *F *C *F Weether

Romania puts revolution death toll at 10.000

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania's reports that up to 60,000 Romanew leadership has said a maxnew leadership has said a maximum of 10,000 people were killed in the December revolution and claimed 50,000 people were executed — about 40 a week during the rule of Communist dictator Nicaolae Ceausescu.

Silvin Brucan, a semior member of the executive committee of the ruling National Salvation Front (NSF), said: "The total number of dead during the revolution in Romania is no more than 10.000." Romanian television reported. He declared Jan. 12 a national

day of mourning.

The genocide of 60,000 vic-

tims blamed on Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu corresponds to the number of executinos carried out during 25 years of dictatorship and those who died during the revolution," Brucan said.

His remarks sought to clarify

revolution alone.

A decree issued Tuesday said Palace Square, where Ceausescu made his last speech before fierce fighting erupted, would be renamed Revolution Square.

Monuments to the dead would be built in Bucharest and the Western town of Timosoara, where the revolution which brought Ceausescu's downfall erupted.

The dictator was toppled from power on Dec. 22 and he and his wife were executed by an army firing squad three days later. **Bucharest and Timisoara were** officially declared "towns of the

The NSF decree said church services would be held every Friday to commemorate the dead. Meanwhile Romania's leaders are moving fast to end the traumatised country's constitutional limbo.

But a senior figure in the NSF responded angrily to charges that democracy was the first casualty of the breakneck pace of change since the bloody end of Ceauses-

Brucan said Tuesday that Romanians would be able to consider a draft constitution and electoral law next week.

"We expect them to become the subject of wide public debate and we shall include all pertinent suggestions in the final draft," Brucan told Reuters.

The new constitution will replace the one that served Ceanseson well for 24 years. Brucan was stung by criticism from poet Doma Cornea who said Monday that ex-Communists

like him were running the NSF

and that the Dec. 22 revolution

Brucan, now in his seventies and a one-time Ceausescu envov in New York and Washington before moving to open dissent, said Cornea was not serious, responsible or fair.

'I think she is very naive politically," Brucan said in response to Cornea's call for workes to demonstrate on the streets rather than lose control of the revolu-

The NSF, an umbrella group of the different forces which toppled Ceausescu, announced further Brucan confirmed that free ele-

ction promised by April, the first for more than 40 years, could be delayed if oppositison parties wanted more time to prepare. The lifting of Ceausescu's vir-

tual ban on foreign travel drew more than 1,000 applicants to the passport office in Bucharest.

estimates · 220 civilians killed in Panama

WASHINGTON (Agencies) -The Defence Department officially have estimated that 220 Panamanian civilians and nonuniformed fighters were killed in its invasion of Panama, but a spokesman said the final tally was likely to rise.

The estimate included "Panamanian Defence Forces and 'Dignity Battalions' not in uniform and otherwise unidentifiable; as well as looters and bona fide innocent civilians," said de-partment spokesman Bob Hall. More than 300 U.S. and

Panamanian uniformed soldiers also died in the Dec. 20 intervention, during which Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega was driven from power and a new government SWOTH III. Hall said Panamanian govern-

ment's Institute for Legal Medicine has counted only 203 civilians killed as a direct result of the military operation. However, Hall said, that offi-

cial institute still has a number of cases to review. "We're being conservative. We

think there'll be a few more. We expect the figure to rise slightly,' Hall said.

Meanwhile Noriega made his second appearance in a heavily guarded Mismi courtroom Tuesday and a federal prosecutor said he could be transferred any day from his cramped jail cell in the

But U.S. District Court Judge William Hoeveler ordered prosecutors not to move Noriega out of South Florida until the judge has been notified.

The judge delayed ruling on the prosecution's request that Noriega be formally ordered held without bail and instead gave defence lawyers more than two weeks to prepare their arguments on the issue. He set the next hearing for Jan. 26.

Noriega is charged with aiding international cocaine smugglers and pocketing \$4.6 million in

The military leader was quietly ushered in by U.S. marshals five minutes after the hearing began and sat calmly during the 40-minute hearing, listening to a Spanish translation of the proceedings through headphones. In a separate development,

Peru has granted diplomatic asy-lum to 12 Panamanians being sheltered in the home of its ambassador, and hundreds of people sacked the headquarters of Noriega.

Asylum was granted Tuesday to Capt. Gonzalo Gonzalez, as U.S. troops remained stationed for a second day outside the Peruvian ambassador's residence seeking his capture. Gonzalez had commanded the company that provided security for Noriega's headquarters.

Others granted asylum inside the residence were Noriega's secretary, Capt. Marcela Tason and her husband, Ulises Rodriguez; Capt. Narcisa Castillero and her daughter Patricia Centte; Maj. Heraclides Sucre, his wife Daisy Batista, three children, and his mother Judith Medina; and Golden Temple at Amritsar, Maj. Edgardo Lopez.

Cambodia, rebels give conflicting battle claims intent on capturing Battambang,

BANGKOK (R) - The Cambodian government and its guerrilla foes issue battlefield reports that differ so widely it's hard to tell if they are talking about the same

With journalists banned from the war zones, conflicting claims have been the hallmarks of the 11-year-old conflict. The Defence Ministry in

Phnom Penh admitted for the first time Wednesday that Khmer Rouge rebels attacked Cambodia's second largest city of Battambang five days ago. It said the guerrilla's four-pronged attack against the city suburbs was repulsed and at least nine rebels were killed. It said the guerrillas were un-

able to capture any positions. But Khmer Rouge radio said rebels took control of the city for four hours, killing or wounding 76 government soldiers, and destroying two planes and several

It said in a broadcast Wednesday monitored in Bangkok guerrillas ambushed troop reinforcements that were backed by tanks and 130-mm artillery pieces on Route 10. It said two tanks were destroyed and the soldiers "were

forced to retreat in disarray." Thai Foreign Ministry officials and senior military officers said it appeared the Khmer Rouge were which has a population of 200,000, to force the Vietnameseinstalled Cambodian government to negotiate a peace settlement. They said the Cambodian

capital, Phnom Penh, came under rebel attack last Saturday but could not confirm Khmer Rouge claims that President Heng Samrin, Prime Minister Hun Sen and other top officials fled to Ho Chi Minh City in southern Vietnam for safety. Khmer Rouge radio said rebels

attacked the centre of Phnom Penh with 32 grenades and plastic explosives, killing or wounding some Vietnamese soldiers. The Cambodian government has not commented on the report. Explosions had heavy gunfire

inside Cambodia were heard Wednesday by residents of the Thai border town of Aranyap-Military sources said about 150

guerrillas of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, an ally of the Khmer Rouge, attacked Cambodian military bases at Ban Nimitr but met strong resist-

The sources said the defenders of the base were equipped with tanks, artillery and mobile rocket launchers.

Sounds of heavy fighting could be heard for about four hours.

Seoul seeks travel talks with North

President Roh Tae-Woo Wednesday predicted reforms sweeping East Europe would soon reach Communist North Korea and he called for a meeting to discuss free travel between the two Koreas.

Roh also announced at a New Year news conference that Seoul and Washington had agreed to scale down joint annual military exercises that have hampered progress in North-South border talks in the past. "The East European wave of

reform toward freedom and prosperity is bound to reach North Korea also before long. We hope similar change will take place in the North in an orderly and peaceful fashion," he said. Roh welcomed Norhtern leader Kim-Il-Sung's. New Year proposal to allow free travel between the North and South as a step towards reunifyinig the Korean peninsula, divided since 1945. The two states are still technically at war since an armistice, rather than a peace treaty, ended the 1950-53 Korean war.

"I welcome the proposal of the top North Korean leader on New Year's Day for free travel and total opening between the South and the North, even though... preconditions were attached to it," Roh said.

"These issues, central to national integration, can be resolved through talks between the authorities of the South and North especially at the highest level. I reaffirm my conviction

that a South-North summit should be held as quickly as possible to that end," he added. Roh has placed high priority on improving ties with the North and its Communist allies since he took office in February, 1988, as South Korea's first freely elected president in nearly two decades. He take a corresponding step," he

predicted "a decisive moment for said.

SEOUL (R) - South Korean national unification will arrive

within, the next 10 years." "An avenue for national integration will surely open up, accelerating exchanges, trade and coopertion between the South and north. With free inter-Korean travel becoming a reality, separated relatives will be able to meet each other," he said. Ten million families were sepa-

rated by the Korean war. There have been telephone, postal, transport or other links between them since. "If it takes time for the two

parts of Korea to agree to free travel and full opening, then ex-changes of correspondence and telephone calls and free home visits by dispersed relatives should be implemented first," Roh said. He said if Pyongyang agreed,

Seoul was ready to begin business ventures, especially in tourism, including the development of the scenic Kumkang Mountains in the North.

Chung Ju-Yung, a South Ko-rean tycoon, visited the North early last year to sign an initial agreement to implement such a project. But follow-up visits were delayed indefinitely after rela-tions between Seoul and Pyongyang soured over illegal trips to the North by dissidents from the South. Roh said Seoul and Washing-

ton had agreed to reduce the scale of this year's "Team Spirit" military exercises to help ease tension on the peninsula. The amouncement was the

South's first such concession to Pyongyang, which has repeatedly protested against the war games. "Since military tension on the peninsula continues without let-up, we have taken this initiative

in the hope that North Korea will

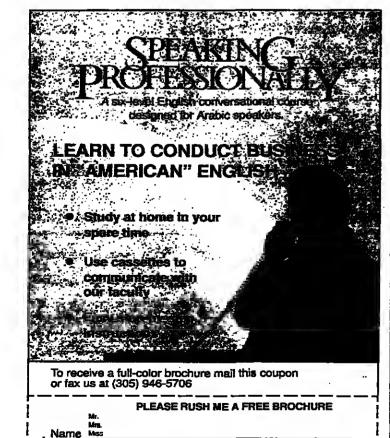
WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

7 die in Poland coal mine accident

WARSAW (AP) - Seven miners were killed and 22 others injured Wednesday in a methane gas explosion in a coal mine, Polish news media reported. The explosion at the Halemba Mine, located on the outskirts of the industrial city of Katowice about 300 kilometres south of Warsaw, occurred just after 2 a.m. (0100 GMT) during the night shift, the Polish news agency (PAP) reported. Polish radio said that six miners were killed instantly and a seventh died in the hospital. The report said that 10 of the miners who were hospitalised were in serious condition. A special commission has been formed to investigate what caused the blast,

More boat people leave Hong Kong

HONG KONG (R) — An increasing number of Vietnamese boat people are new leaving Hong Kong for home voluntarily, officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said Wednesday. A group of 123 men, women and children who had given up hope of resettlement overseas flew from the crowded British colony for Hanoi Wednesday under a U.N.-sponsored voluntary repatriation policy. This brought to 995 the total number to have gone back of their own volition since the flights began last March. "The pace is picking up now. We seem to be getting towards two flights a month regularly," an official said, adding that another flight was planned next week and two more in February. The voluntary repatriation programme has been slow to start, despite the squalid and often brutal conditions inside the colony's camps and detention centres.



AMERICAN CAREER TRAINING INTERNATIONAL, Dept. JTM0111

Pompano Beach, Florida 33064 USA FAX: (305) 946-5706

Address

4699 North Federal Highway

Ceausescu 'ordered' massacre

BUCHAREST (AP) — Nicolae Consescu personally ordered troops to fire on peaceful demonstrators at the outset of the revolution that toppled him, Interior Minister Mikai Ghitac has

Ghitac, one of the first generals to side with civilians seeking reluctant to shoot a pregnant woman to use tanks againt her. The former military commander of the Bucharest garrison told the Associated Press that about 800 armed Ceausescu loyalists had

been captured since the uprising began Dec. 15. He added that the army knew the location of the few still at large and was preparing to close in on them. The general's eyes misted with tears as he spoke of the massacre

in mid-December of unarmed demonstrators in Timisoara, 500 kilometres northwest of Bucharest — the attack that unleashed the revolt ending Ceausescu's 24 years of iron-fisted rule.

"It is certain that he gave strict orders to shoot," he said of Ceausescu's role in the massacre. "Special units had been sent" to infiltrate army ranks, "and these units provoked general genocide in Timisoura," said Ghitae.

Elena Ceauseson, the nation's second in command, was no less harsh, Ghitac related.

"They telephoned the wife of the despot that they could not shoot because there were women and children," Ghitac related. "She was told over the telephone that a pregnant woman told the soldiers, 'shoot, and you will kill two people."

"The tyrant's wife said, 'if you can't shoot, go with tanks againt He depicted the pair after their capture and in the final days

before their execution as seemingly blind to the reality of a Remania condemned to poverty because of their economic and social policies. An interrogator "asked them, 'why did you leave the Romanian people without food, children without food?" Ghitac related. The answer was have you seen anyone die of hunger in

"Asked why television had been restricted to a daily two-hour of falsome adulation for the Ceausescus and their narrow vision of Romania, the couple argued, 'had we enlarged the TV program-me, the workes would have been tired and couldn't have gone to work," Ghitac said.

The daily Adevarul (truth) said Tuesday that Ceausescu's youngest son, Nicu, a former party secretary in the southern Transylvanian city of Sibin, personally ordered army and police units to shoot revolutionaries in the city last month.

Top Punjab officer killed in explosion

CHANDIGARH, India (R) - A Punjab police commandant high on the hit-list of Sikh militants was killed when a bomb ripped apart his office Wednesday, a senior police source said.

Commandant Gobind Ram and three other policemen died when the blast demolished a single-storey building in a police complex at Juliundur, 300 kilometres north west of New Delhi, the source in the capital Chandigarh

Human rights groups had long accused Ram of excessed in investigating a violent campaign by Sikhs for their own homeland in Punjab.
"He was high on the hit-list of

the Sikh extremists and we can

only guess," the source said when asked who was suspected of planting the bomb. It was a powerful bomb which brought down the entire build-

ing," the source added.

He said the bomb went off just before lunchtime, but he could give no further details. More than 2,000 people died in

1989 in the campaign by extremists for a homeland they call Khalistan, land of the pure. They included militants, police, Hindus and others caught in the conflict. New Indian Prime Minister

Vishwanath Pratap Singh has made peace in Punjab a priority for his government and has invited all political parties to a public meeting Thursday in Ludhiana, some 20 kilometres south of Julimohir. The campaign for Khalistan reached a peak of bloodshed in

1984. More than 1,000 people

died when the then Prime Minis-

ter Indira Gandhi ordered troops

into Sikhdom's holiest shrine, the